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Woman arrives in Kuwait to seek justice

KUWAIT (AP) — Narmat Farhat, a Lebanese woman who was raped and shot in the head four days after Kuwait's liberation in 1991, returned to the emirate for the first time Wednesday to try to identify her attacker. Ms. Farhat, 33, who now lives with her brother in Santa Cruz, California, will meet in court on Saturday with the man arrested in the case, a Kuwaiti named Jaber Al Ameri. He is charged with murder, rape and attempted murder. His attorney, Khaled Al Ngaimishi, says he is innocent. The case has drawn international attention as a measure of how willing the oil-rich country will be in prosecuting its own people for revenge attacks that followed the Gulf war. Ameri, 33, was arrested in April after Ms. Farhat selected his photo from among several sent to the United States by Kuwait's Interior Ministry. Ms. Farhat was raped, shot and left for dead in the family's home in Kuwait city's Salwa district on March 2, 1991. Just four days after a U.S.-led coalition drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait, ending a seven-month occupation. Her father, Imad, and brother, Osama, were killed. The attacker, armed with a Kalashnikov with a Kuwaiti flag sticker on the stock, told Ms. Farhat he had orders to execute the family for "collaborating with Iraqi occupiers."

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Islamic Jihad member detained

AMMAN (AP) — Jordanian security officials have detained a fundamentalist Palestinian in connection with a weekend rocket attack against Israeli positions, family members said Wednesday. A security official said Mamoun Tamimi, 31, head of the military wing of the fundamentalist Palestinian Islamic Jihad-Bait Al Maqdes, was taken into custody Tuesday. The official said interrogation was underway. Sheikh Assad Bayyoud, said "my son was arrested apparently because he masterminded the attack against the Israeli enemy four days ago." The group Saturday issued a statement in Lebanon claiming responsibility for firing five Katyusha rockets at Israeli positions in South Lebanon. Material damage was reported, but there were no casualties.

Arafat, Holst meet in Tunis

TUNIS (AFP) — Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, has met here with Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst to discuss Middle East peace moves and developments on the Israeli-occupied territories, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported. The agency said Mr. Arafat on Tuesday told Mr. Holst of the "deterioration" in the situation on the West Bank and Gaza Strip caused by a blockade on the occupied territories imposed by Israel at the end of March. Mr. Arafat, according to Wafa, spelled out the Palestinian position on Middle East peace and described the "obstacles" that hampered the last round of negotiations with Israel in Washington. Mr. Holst, who arrived in Tunis Sunday, also met with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Tunisian counterpart Habib Ben Yahia.

Egypt postpones trial of blind cleric

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian court has postponed the trial of Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman and his followers until September, security sources said Wednesday. They said an appeals court decided Tuesday to adjourn the trial to review a petition to remove Judge Ahmad Ashmawi. It will also give Egypt's embassy in the United States time to issue an official summons to Sheikh Abdul Rahman, currently detained three, the sources said.

Kurdish rebels ready to free tourists

NICOSIA (AP) — Kurdish rebels said Wednesday they would free two British tourists abducted in southeastern Turkey 10 days ago if the Turkish government agreed to a ceasefire to ensure their safety. The rebels' news agency, Kurd-Ha, also urged humanitarian groups, such as the International Red Cross, to mediate a truce and take delivery of the Britons — David Rowbottom, 27, an engineer, and his cousin, Tania Miller, 27, a nurse. The agency quoted Abu Bekir, whom it identified as the rebels' local commander in Garzan, as saying that in the absence of a ceasefire, the Turkish army "will try to execute the tourists and blame this on us." The couple went missing July 4 while cycling in embattled mountains in southeastern Turkey.

Two sentenced to death in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — A special Algerian court trying Muslim activists has sentenced two men to death for threatening state security, the official news agency APS said Wednesday. The court in the western town of Oran also sentenced seven other defendants to jail terms ranging from five to 12 years. APS said the convicted men were members of an underground group preparing to carry out sabotage operations in the town of Tlemcen near Oran where they were arrested in October. About 150 activists have been sentenced to death since early last year, the start of violence blamed on Muslim activists. Six of them were executed at the beginning of this year.

Palestinians seek full jurisdiction in territories

Combined agency despatches

AMMAN — Palestinians, in a four-point draft handed to Washington, have insisted they should control the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Arab East Jerusalem during interim self-rule. Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) sources said Wednesday.

The PLO-formulated draft was handed to Dennis Ross, overall coordinator of the Middle East peace process, during a regional tour to try to rescue the faltering talks and bridge Palestinian-Israeli differences over self-governance.

A PLO source summarised the four points for Reuters in Amman as follows:

It is a general principle that the substance of discussions on territorial jurisdiction in the interim phase of negotiations will not affect the question of sovereignty in the negotiations over the final status of the occupied territories.

The negotiations on the interim phase will not prejudice the result of the negotiations on the permanent status of the occupied territories.

On the other hand, both negotiations are directed to achieve the implementation of U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 in all their aspects.

— The Palestinian authority

will exert its territorial jurisdiction over occupied territories that were not under Israeli administration before June 4, 1967 (a day before the Middle East war), including Jerusalem.

— The occupied territories will be a single entity with one legal system.

Another PLO source said Palestinians made it clear to Mr. Ross they were ready to discuss "functional exceptions" presented by Israel. But would not accept any territorial compromise.

Mr. Ross flew back home from Israel Wednesday after intensive talks with Arab, Israeli and Palestinian leaders to save the 20-month-old talks amid no explicit signs of progress.

His team had aimed to conclude a joint declaration of principles between Israelis and Palestinians that would pave the way for a self-rule agreement, a key point stalling the process.

Both Palestinians and Israelis said they proposed their own versions of a June 30 U.S. document — which neither side liked — meant to narrow differences over self-rule.

The central issues in dispute are the territorial boundaries of an interim five-year, self-rule arrangement and specifically whether Arab Jerusalem will be included. Talks on the final status of the territories should begin in

the third year.

On returning to Washington, Mr. Ross was to advise U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on whether it would be useful to make a trip to the region later this month.

In Washington State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said while there are no current plans for Mr. Warren Christopher to visit the Middle East, the possibility is being assessed on a day-to-day basis.

"I think you've heard me often say here that the secretary has no plans at the moment to travel, and that remains true," Mr. McCurry said. "I think you've also heard the secretary himself say that he believes that by Labour Day it's hard to imagine he will not have been to the region."

"That is something we are assessing on a day-by-day basis," the spokesman said. The secretary talked by telephone late July 12 with Ambassador Ross.

Later, a senior U.S. official told reporters that as each day passes, it becomes less likely that Mr. Christopher would go to the Middle East before he flies to Asia for a meeting in Singapore late this month. At present, he is expected to leave Washington about July 24 on that trip. Mr. Ross is expected to continue talks in

(Continued on page 10)

Syria, Israel agree to 'ease tension'

Combined agency despatches

BEIRUT — Syria and Israeli have agreed through U.S. mediation to work to ease tension in South Lebanon, where five Israeli soldiers were killed last week, diplomatic sources here said Wednesday.

Security sources in the south said meanwhile, that Israel had deployed almost 450 extra troops and 22 heavy artillery pieces as well as dozens of tanks and armoured vehicles across from the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley.

Israeli planes staged mock raids on eastern Lebanon Wednesday as Israel's cabinet discussed possible retaliation for the last week's killings.

Witnesses said pro-Iranian Hizballah gunners, apparently to avoid exposing their positions, held their fire against the planes staging mock raids against targets in the Bekaa Valley.

Palestinian and Hizballah (Party of God) guerrillas have been on high alert for Israeli strikes to avenge the killings in south Lebanon last week.

Israeli security sources said Israel's inner cabinet met to dis-

cuss possible retaliation as U.S. peace mediators left the Middle East after trying to break the deadlock at Arab-Israeli peace talks.

But Israeli officials have played down chances of a large-scale operation against the Lebanon-based guerrillas and have been emphasising the advantages of diplomatic pressure.

In occupied Jerusalem, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokesman denied any agreement existed between Israel, Syria and Lebanon to restore calm in southern Lebanon.

"I can say only that during meetings with Mr. Ross the question of tension in southern Lebanon was raised," spokesman Gad Ben Ari told AFP.

According to a Western diplomat in Beirut, U.S. Middle East Envoy Dennis Ross has convinced Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Mr. Rabin to "calm down the situation."

Israeli officials said Mr. Rabin had asked Mr. Ross, who on Wednesday ended a six-day tour aimed at breaking a deadlock in Middle East peace talks, to help curb anti-Israeli attacks in South Lebanon.

Somalis on warpath as rift appears in U.N.

Combined agency despatches

MOGADISHU — Somali fighters distributed leaflets Wednesday warning of an impending attack on American forces, and some aid workers reported a flow of weapons into the tense capital.

Although such militant propaganda is not new in Mogadishu, the leaflets, signed by a previously unknown group, the Muslim Voice, were believed to be the first printed in the Somali language with an English translation — an apparent attempt to gain attention from foreign reporters and others.

"We appeal to all countries of the multinational force to stay far from the American sites in Mogadishu. We are going to launch an attack to the American compounds," read the translation.

Meanwhile, differences surfaced over Italy's threat to withdraw its troops from Mogadishu in a row with Washington and the United Nations over the conduct of the U.N. military mission in Somalia.

The United Nations called on Italy to recall its commander of peacekeeping forces in Somalia as soon as possible because of differences with the U.N. command in Mogadishu.

'Italy outraged'

ITALIAN FOREIGN Minister Beniamino Andreotta said Wednesday he was "outraged" at the decision by the United Nations to remove Italy's military commander in Somalia, General Bruno Loi.

"I'm outraged," he said, adding that he had previously agreed with U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali that Gen. Loi should not return without full consultation with the Italian government.

Under-Secretary for Peacekeeping Operations Kofi Annan said the move was the result of a rift between the Italian officer, General Bruno Loi, and the U.N. command over recent raids in the Somali capital.

Earlier in Rome, the Italian government said it had refused to take part in what it called "urban guerrilla" warfare in Mogadishu and Italian Foreign Minister Beniamino Andreotta threatened to pull Italian troops out of Mogadishu.

In a deepening rift with the United Nations, the minister warned that Rome would rede-

(Continued on page 10)



King meets military students

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein met Tuesday in London with the commandant and the steering committee of the Royal College of Defence Studies in London. During the meeting, the King outlined the Jordanian position regarding the current situation in the Middle East, the latest developments in the ongoing peace process and international affairs, the Jordan Information Bureau in London said.

Earlier, the commandant of

the college thanked the King for accepting the invitation to address the group of multinational officers in college.

A question and answer session followed the King's speech.

The meeting was attended by Lieutenant general Abdul Hafez Miral, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Mr. Fouad Ayoub, the Jordanian Ambassador to Britain, and Brigadier Awad Maatiah, the military attaché at the Jordanian embassy.

The King left Amman Friday, one day after he was discharged from hospital where he underwent treatment for an irregular heartbeat problem, which doctors said was not serious.

It was not known whether the King will undergo surgery for an eardrum problem.

During his stay in London, the King received phone calls from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

Majali: Jordan does not have 'political detainees'

'Public demonstrations unnecessary in view of liberal laws'

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam al Majali said Wednesday that he was not aware about any "political detainees" in Jordan in the real sense of the term, but that those who work against the security of the state and the Jordanian people under a political pretext faced imprisonment.

Addressing a meeting with the council of presidents of Jordanian professional associations at his office, Dr. Majali said "those charged with acting against the country are being dealt with by the State Security Court."

Dr. Majali said he supported the idea of free expression. "Street demonstrations in the past were the sole means of expressing ideas and views but now that the Press and Publications Law has been enacted along with the Political Parties Law, which allow people to express their views in many different ways, I do not favour street demonstrations," he said.

The prime minister said that "certain factions who are acting against democracy and harbour evil for the country's security could infiltrate the marchers."

Referring to possible amendments to the Election Law, Dr. Majali said the government had not yet discussed this subject.

"There is no importance for my personal view, but if we want to practise freedom and true democracy the way to deal with this subject, as His Majesty King Hussein had said in his recent dialogue with the Senate members, is through continued dialogue so that a general consensus can be reached at the right moment," the prime minister said.

Referring to the facilities for voter registration for the coming elections, Dr. Majali said the Interior Ministry was orienting the public about the process through the media.

"The Constitution has guaranteed the right for every person to take part in the elections and therefore people should register their names and officials have to facilitate this task," Dr. Majali said.

Referring to new laws and regulations pertaining to professional associations, the prime minister

said that the legislation bureau at the Prime Ministry was exerting efforts to accomplish its duty towards various departments and institutions. But, he added, that amending laws or enacting new ones requires a thorough study.

The government, he added, has showed concern over these matters by creating the post of minister of state for legal affairs to coordinate matters between the government and the Lower House of Parliament.

On the peace process, Dr. Majali said Jordan's stand is crystal clear. "It is based on coordination and cooperation with the concerned Arab parties involved in the process, especially the Palestinians with whom we share the endeavours to reach a just, honourable and comprehensive settlement to guarantee all rights," he said.

The prime minister said that these negotiations had their negative and positive aspects, but "we, as Arabs, should exert all efforts to regain our rights."

He urged the heads of professional associations to deal objec-

tively and constructively with the circumstances and new developments in Jordan. He said that democracy will continue to prevail, thanks to the new laws which legalised political parties and political activities.

"These laws have saved the professional unions the burden of expressing the political views, and opened the way for them to direct all their efforts and potentials towards serving their own members within the framework of the profession and improving the performance of the union members through organising their work and ensuring their rights so as to contribute towards further progress in Jordan," he said.

The presidents of the following associations attended the meeting: "The Jordanian Dentists Association, the Jordan Medical Association, the Jordan Pharmacists Association, the Bar Association, the Veterinarians Association, the Agriculture Engineers Association, the Jordanian Writers Association and the Geologists Association."

Iraq insists on maintaining defence to counter Iran

Combined agency despatches

BAGHDAD — Iraq insisted Wednesday on the eve of a crucial visit by U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus that its defence capacity must be kept intact to counter Iran.

With a possible U.N.-endorsed military strike looming, Mr. Ekeus travels to Baghdad on Thursday on a mission to convince Iraq to accept long-term monitoring of its weapons programmes.

But the official Baghdad press warned Iraq could not be stripped of its defences against neighbouring Iran and that it was not prepared to accept long-term monitoring until the U.N. trade embargo was lifted.

"Depriving Iraq of its defensive capabilities would sharpen the appetite of Iran and other regional forces to embark on expansionist policies. This would throw the region once again into turmoil," warned the Baghdad Observer.

"It is for these reasons that the Iraqis are so sensitive about any attempt that might appear to be a bid to deprive them of their defensive capabilities," said the English-language daily.

It called for "a new dialogue ... in a calm and objective way, with an open mind."

Washington and the United Nations have left open the option of military action following Iraq's refusal to let U.N. experts set up surveillance cameras at two missile test sites south of Baghdad or for the facilities to be sealed.

The ruling Baath Party newspaper, Al Thawra, said dialogue was the only way to resolve the crisis and noted that Iraq had proposed the missile testing equipment be moved to another site for U.N. monitoring.

The U.N. commission charges with eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, including medium and long-range missiles,

has warned the two sites could be destroyed if Iraq refused to comply with its demands.

But Al Thawra argued that discussion on U.N. Resolution 715, calling for long-term monitoring, was "illegal" before the lifting of the embargo in force since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

On Tuesday, Iraqi Industry Minister Amer Hammudi Al Saadi branched the weapons inspectors as "spies and saboteurs." Two days earlier, a U.N. team left, abruptly after being barred from sealing the test sites.

Mr. Ekeus was due in Bahrain late Wednesday.

Mr. Ekeus, head of the U.N. special commission in charge of destroying Iraq's major weapons programmes, won U.N. Security Council approval to make the trip to persuade Iraq to comply with his inspectors and avoid possible military action.

Iraq oil pact said 'in sight'

TALKS FOR Iraq to sell limited quantities of oil for the first time since Baghdad invaded Kuwait are approaching an agreement but obstacles still remain, diplomats said Wednesday.

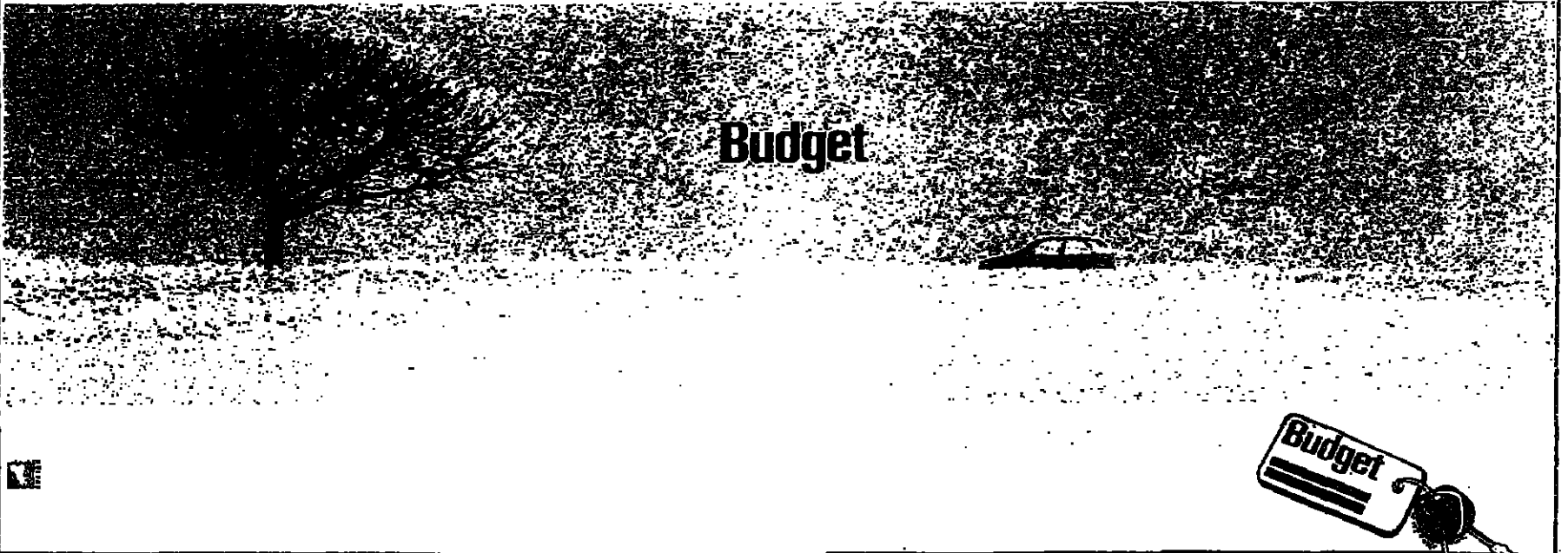
"A draft agreement is in sight," said one key envoy. But he urged caution, saying that any pact would have to be approved by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and the Security Council as well as authorities in Baghdad.

At issue are two 1991 Security Council resolutions authorising Iraq to sell \$1.6 billion worth of oil over six months — mainly to pay for humanitarian aid provided by U.N. agencies, particularly to rebellious Kurds.

More than a third of the proceeds would be used to cover U.N. costs incurred in destroying Iraq's weapons and to a reparation fund for victims of Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

The U.N. would closely monitor contracts, terminals, proceeds and the distribution of food and medicine.

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Israeli economy strains under Rabin government

By Howard Goller
Reuter

TEL AVIV — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's menu for economic reform in Israel is stained by a food fight with McDonald's.

Bowing to Israeli potato growers, Mr. Rabin's government recently forced the U.S. fast-food giant to serve local french fries at its first-ever branches in Israel.

The incident, reinforcing Israel's image as a bastion of protectionism and state ownership, underlines Mr. Rabin's failure to score an economic breakthrough during his first year in power.

Despite some notable successes since taking office in July last year, his broad campaign pledges to liberalise, privatise and slash paperwork have gone largely unmet.

"Do we want to open our economy to foreign competition? Do we want to provide our consumers with the best merchandise at the lowest cost?" Asks Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel.

"If the answer is yes, then we should just go ahead with it. It's not a matter for long debate," the central bank chief told Reuters in an interview.

Even some of Mr. Rabin's toughest critics believe his intentions are good — they just think that is not enough.

Zev Golan, associate director of an independent free-market think-tank, said: "The country is sort of in the grips of big labour, big government and big business."

"All of these together are the perfect recipe for inertia

when it comes to making changes," he said.

The government hopes to raise three billion shekels (\$1 billion) selling off state firms in 1993, up from 1.1 billion shekels (\$393,000) in 1992.

Its sale this year of 20 per cent of the shares in Bank Hapoalim, the country's largest bank, was vastly oversubscribed, showing the market could easily handle further flotations.

"It's nice they've semi-privatised part of a bank," said Mr. Golan, of the Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies.

But he said: "Mexico sold dozens of companies in the time that Israel sold a handful."

Several prospects make the coming months crucial.

Mr. Rabin took office vowing to accelerate Middle East peace talks and a breakthrough would make Israel a greater attraction for foreign investment.

Having secured \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees spread over the next five years, Mr. Rabin expects to improve Israel's infrastructure and foster private investment.

His cabinet last month agreed to create an unprecedented free trade zone to attract foreign investment and provide 20,000 jobs. It requires parliamentary approval.

— Tel Aviv's stock exchange soared 74 per cent in 1992 on doubled volume. It has traded in a narrow range this year, but in a sign of its expanded importance it plans to open an options exchange next month.

For Israelis, perhaps the most visible economic change under Mr. Rabin has been the shift in spending priorities from Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank to much-needed road construction inside Israel.

But in the year ahead, Mr. Rabin will face challenges on boosting economic growth, reducing near-record unemployment and holding the line on inflation.

The Bank of Israel warns that gross domestic product (GDP) growth will drop to four per cent this year from 6.6 per cent in 1992 now that a government-backed housing boom for immigrants is over.

That reduction is partly caused by the army's closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip imposed at the end of March, which will shave 0.5 per cent off GDP. The territories supply Israel with cheap Palestinian labour.

This comes as Israel's backers in the U.S. Senate and foreign service warn of a future cut in American aid. Israel's \$3 billion a year is the most any country receives from Washington, but this is an era of American belt-tightening.

Unemployment, a key issue in a country that counts on drawing immigrants, remains near a 20-year record 11 per cent. A recent opinion poll gave the government its lowest ranking on this issue.

Inflation dropped in 1992 to a single-digit for the first time in 23 years, 9.4 per cent. Mr. Frenkel said he hoped to hold it at 10 per cent in 1993 with a long-term goal of bringing the figure down to that of major industrial countries.

Libya hires Sofaer in possible Pan Am case

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Libya has hired Abraham Sofaer, who as a State Department lawyer gave the legal go-ahead for the U.S. bombing of Tripoli seven years ago, to negotiate a possible settlement of cases stemming from the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

Mr. Sofaer, who now heads the Washington office of the international law firm Hughes Hubbard and Reed, was the State Department legal adviser during the Reagan administration, and argued that air strikes on Libyan targets were legally justified because "terrorists" amounted to armed aggression against the United States.

He also was in the post in December 1988, when a bomb blew up the airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270.

In a statement, Mr. Sofaer's firm said it had been hired to help arrange legal settlements in civil suits filed by some families of the victims and in U.S. indictments against two Libyans allegedly involved in the attack.

Mr. Sofaer said the move does not mean Libya or the two defendants have decided to appear in any court case.

It simply means his firm "will advise the government of Libya with a view to developing solutions for the differences which exist in these litigations, and which are acceptable to all parties. We will not litigate actively in defence of Libya or the individual defendants," he said.

Libya has refused to release the two indicted men to U.S. authorities.

A year ago, members of some victims' families said they had been approached by agents representing Libya who implied they would be given up to \$1 million if they would sign a letter to Congress asking for an end to international sanctions against Libya.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has said that tighter United Nations sanctions would not force him to hand over for trial the two suspects in the Pan Am bombing.

The United States has begun consultations with other countries on imposing further sanctions against Libya before a U.N. re-



Muammar Qadhafi

view of existing punitive measures by Aug. 15.

"Libya cannot arrest a citizen against his will and force him to go for trial in another state," Colonel Qadhafi was quoted Monday as saying by the official Libyan news agency JANA.

"Therefore sanctions against Libya appear meaningless and tightening them will change nothing," he told the Libyan newspaper Al Arab in remarks carried by JANA.

"They (Western states) should not think that escalation will change Libya's stand. Libya cannot do that...even if they go to war. The more there is escalation, the more we get away from the trial," he added.

Proposed new sanctions include an embargo on oil-production equipment and a freeze of certain assets.

The U.N. Security Council imposed an air and arms embargo on Libya on April 15, 1992 because it failed to surrender the two suspects.

It also ordered Tripoli to cooperate in investigations into the bombing of a French UTA plane over Niger in 1989 that killed 171 people, and prove it had cut links with "terrorist" groups.

Libya, denying involvement in the two bombings, has offered to release the two suspects for trial anywhere in the world except the United States and Britain — an offer that was rejected.

U.S. opposes sending Iranians to Bosnia

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States opposed sending Iranian troops into Bosnia to defend security zones for Bosnian civilians, a State Department official said Tuesday.

But the official said the U.S. administration would not make its opposition known officially due to the criticism such a move could draw from the countries actively taking part in protesting the zones.

There would be "substantial problems with a sizable contingent of Iranian troops in Bosnia," the official said, referring to a proposal from Tehran to put 10,000 men at the disposal of the United Nations as a part of an offer made by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

While the administration official did not specify the nature of these problems, Washington for days has said Tehran's influence in the former Yugoslavia is growing and that foreign nationals should take steps to protect themselves against possible acts of Iranian-inspired "terrorism."

Still, the official said, "given the fact that we are not providing ground troops, it is not up to us to comment."

State Department spokesman Michael McCurry indicated that the United States would defer on the issue to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali.

It is for Dr. Ghali, Mr. McCurry said, to decide on the appropriate deployment of forces, and the United States will refrain from commenting on the participation of particular states.

He said the United States was in close consultation with the secretary general but that he did not know if Washington formally had offered opinions on the countries that ought or ought not to supply troops.

If Dr. Ghali decides to approve the Iranian contingent, the United States would decide whether there was any cause for concern, he said.

The United Nations has asked member states to provide 7,500 additional troops to protect the six safe zones in Bosnia declared by the Security Council.

At a meeting in Islamabad, the OIC proposed offering 18,000 troops to the world body from six countries including Iran and Palestine.

Iran Tuesday disputed the U.S. charges that militants were offering military training to Bosnian Muslims and may be preparing to use violence against Westerners in the former Yugoslavia.

In a statement from its U.N. mission, Iran said the charges from the State Department were part of a "continuation of the persistent campaigns of disinformation and baseless propaganda by the United States against Iran."

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Wednesday it would defeat the United States in any standoff and would not stray from its Islamic revolutionary path under U.S. pressure.

"Today the slogan 'Death to America' belongs to each and every Iranian," he said in a speech reported by Tehran Radio. "The naivety and ineptness of U.S. officials is revealed by the fact that they have not understood that Satan acts against... Iran will result in nothing but their own greater disgrace and they will be defeated in this confrontation. We will vigorously follow the path of Islam as we have been taught by our revolution and imam (the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini)."

Washington, which brands Iran an international outlaw and accuses it of sponsoring terrorism and seeking nuclear weapons, is pushing to isolate Iran internationally.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sudan sets date for talks with Egypt

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan has proposed July 21 or 22 for a meeting of foreign ministers from Sudan and Egypt as agreed upon by presidents Omar Hassan Bashir and Hosni Mubarak to discuss outstanding problems between the two countries. The director of the political department of the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, Mehdi Ibrahim, said in weekly press briefing Tuesday he was hopeful that the meeting would settle all issues of disagreement between Sudan and Egypt. Relations between the two countries are strained after accusations that each of them hosts and assists opposition elements and over a border dispute in the Halaib triangle on the Red Sea. Mr. Ibrahim also criticised international relief organisations and United Nations agencies for failing to assist his government in shipping relief supplies to needy areas in southern Sudan. General Bashir has repeatedly accused relief and other Western organisations operating in Sudan of failing to transport more than 150,000 tonnes of relief made available by his government to the south of the country.

Rafsanjani lauds Iran's secret agents

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani visited his intelligence service Tuesday and said the work of secret agents was "something to be proud of." Iranian Television, monitored in Cyprus, said Mr. Rafsanjani gave the praise while inspecting the "latest achievements of the country's intelligence system" at the Ministry of Intelligence in Tehran. But he told ministry workers that "the calm and security prevailing in the country should not lead to a decline in security sensitivity. You should deal with the people in a way that wins their trust." The ministry is in charge of gathering intelligence, catching spies and countering threats and plots against the state. Iran denies opposing charges that its agents have killed dozens of dissident exiles in recent years. Intelligence Minister Ali Fallahian said last month that the Iraq-based Mujahadeen-e-Khalq opposition group had launched five cross-border attacks since January, including bombings at two oil wells. Ten infiltrators and two Iranian guards were killed in the clashes, he said.

New trial for German firms accused of Iraq sales

DARMSTADT, Germany (AFP) — A trial that opened in April 1992 of German firms accused of illegally selling Iraq material that could be used for chemical weapons must begin all over again, the federal prosecutor announced Tuesday. A court here had ruled that testimony from expert witnesses had been insufficient to determine if the material had been manufactured for use in the development of chemical weapons. The judges then called on two new experts. But their findings will not be ready before the date of which the trial — according to the country's judicial regulations — must resume. The court must therefore start the trial all over again. Officials from the firms Karl Kolb, Pilot Plant and Wet have appeared in court here in connection with the sale of material to Iraq in the 1980s.

Storm kills five Algerian fishermen

ALGIERS (R) — Five Algerian fishermen drowned when their trawlers sank off the coastal town of Oran during a storm, the Algerian news agency APS reported. Twelve of the 17-strong crew of the trawler Hamer were rescued. The trawler left the Mediterranean Habibas Islands with six tonnes of fish on board on Monday when the storm hit, causing it to capsize and sink, APS said. Two of the 12 rescued fishermen were in hospital, it added.

Philippines probe sex syndicate in Kuwait

MANILA (R) — The Philippines is investigating reports that Filipina maids sheltering in an embassy-run welfare centre in Kuwait are being procured as prostitutes for Kuwaiti nationals. Manila newspapers, quoting a source, said Wednesday the women were procured by fellow Filipina, one of whom was a former maid who had had several Kuwaiti husbands. The Manila Times said pimps would take the maids out of the centre run by the Philippines embassy for abused women on the pretext of finding them better jobs. Instead they would be turned over to Kuwaiti nationals for sex. "There's no categorical proof of that yet... we will continue to investigate that," Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo told reporters when asked about the alleged sex syndicate. "It's extremely important that we get the facts first." Labour Secretary Nieves Confesor, who went to Kuwait in February, said personnel at the welfare centre told her they had difficulties managing the runaway maids. "Some of them were jumping over the fence at night... and it is very difficult to restrain them," Mr. Confesor said. Some of more than 400 maids who have returned home from Kuwait in recent weeks accused their employers of rape, assault and not paying their wages.

Israeli civil servants escalate strike

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli civil servants, who have been on strike for a week demanding more pay, announced Wednesday an escalation of their action. The Histadrut trade union federation called out 20,000 more workers and urged 2,500 civil servants in "vital" jobs to defy government orders and join 50,000 striking colleagues from Sunday. Fearing renewed inflation, the government has spurned negotiations with the unions who want more than 30 per cent pay rises spread over several years. The treasury has offered three per cent a year while annual inflation is running at 14 per cent.

Moroccan police break up sit-in by teachers

RABAT (R) — Four people were injured when police armed with batons broke up a sit-in at the education ministry by about 400 teachers demanding to be upgraded to staff positions, a spokesman for the teachers said on Wednesday. The teachers, among 2,600 education system graduates who have served up to four years in the state 3,200 dormitories (\$335). The 400 were hired at 1,800 dirhams (\$190) a month with promises of staffing later. "All we want is for the ministry to agree to talks to discuss our situation," the spokesman said. Despite the police intervention on Tuesday, teachers continued their sit-in on Wednesday. Police arrested two teachers, including one of the two women injured on Tuesday.

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Sabah: Kuwait must punish crooked officials

KUWAIT (R) — Any Kuwaiti government minister who used his job for personal gain should be sacked and punished, Foreign Minister Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah said in remarks published Wednesday.

Newspapers quoted him as saying the government and opposition-dominated parliament were considering what action to take against officials accused of abusing public funds.

"The government is in constant touch with the assembly deputies to reach a decision on actions to be taken against people accused of depleting the country's overseas investments," newspapers quoted Sheikh Sabah as saying.

The state's overseas assets have halved to about \$45 billion since the 1990 Iraqi invasion, mostly because of payment of costs related to the 1991 Gulf war that ended the occupation.

But parliament says part of the drop is because of many years of negligence and fraud in the management of the funds.

Some members of parliament have called for the prosecution in Kuwait of former officials up to ministerial level suspected of wrongdoing in the handling of foreign investments.

The government would never oppose any move by the parliament that would benefit the people and the country, he was reported as saying.

Some MPs have called for three former Kuwaiti investment officials to be brought back to the country to face trial on charges of corruption.

Two out of the three are among 22 former investment executives and advisers who are being used in London by Kuwaiti authorities for alleged conspiracy to defraud and other malpractice in connection with Spanish investments.

Grupo Torras, the Spanish holding company for state-owned Kuwait Investment Office (KIO), went into receivership last December with losses of about \$4 billion.

Ismail Al Shatti, head of parliament's finance and economic committee, said earlier this month \$510 million of Kuwait's overseas investments had been lost due to dubious financial transfers that amounted to outright theft.

The assembly has asked its legal and legislative affairs committee to consider whether MPs investigating the investment losses should formally question former finance ministers in office when alleged corrupt investment dealings took place.

It has also asked the legal and legislative affairs committee to study laws related to the possible trial of former ministers.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Pif et Hercule
17:45 Goal
18:15 Gopoli
19:00 News in French
19:15 Fiction
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Too Close for Comfort
21:10 Question Leap
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "No Mercy"

PRAYER TIMES

04:03 Fajr
(8:35 Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:41 Asr
16:22 Maghreb
19:47 Isha
21:20

7 HILIMIM 3 WCHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

Dr. In Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terraced Church Tel. 622466

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 717331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771551

Amman International Church Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 628264, 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675991

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A drop in temperature will take place and wind will be westerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./max. temp. 19/29
Aqaba 25/38
Deserts 17/34

Jordan Valley 23/36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Aqaba 41. Humidity readings: Amman 23 per cent, Aqaba 22 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Fakhr Tayeh 855800
Dr. Jamal Jibara 847351
Dr. Rizq Abu Zaina 84295
Dr. Yousef Nasr 751144
Firas Pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637655
Nairokh pharmacy 626762
Al Salam pharmacy 636731
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmezzani pharmacy 637691
Najih pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Zu'bi (—)
Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Rajeh Matar 901290
Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 643402
Traffic Police 609340
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 645800
Phone Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 797111
Complaints 797111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 630321
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381532
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 6423816
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636401
Palestine, Shmezzani 6647114
Shmezzani Hospital 667131
University Hospital 845945
Al-Muasher Hospital 6672774
The Klumbe, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6661046
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7710103
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Army, Marka 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarco Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarco National Hospital (09)980560
The Sina Hospital 667131
Al-Hakim Modern Hospital (09)90290
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272725
Jbn Al-Nafess Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)532055, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
05:30 Sanaa (RJ)
05:30 Aden (RJ)
05:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:45 New Delhi (RJ)
10:15 Riyadh (RJ)
10:15 Dhahran (RJ)
10:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30 Cairo, Agada (RJ)
10:55 Beirut (RJ)
11:00 Colombo (RJ)
11:55 Larnaca (RJ)
12:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
19:15 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
19:30 London, Berlin (RJ)
19:30 Athens (RJ)
14:30 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
21:10 Rome (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

13:00 Antalya (TK)
14:30 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
16:45 Riyadh (SU)
20:35 Rome (AZ)
20:35 Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Beirut (RJ)
12:00 Rome (RJ)
12:00 Amsterdam (RJ)
12:05 Chicago (RJ)
12:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
12:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
13:00 Larnaca (RJ)
13:05 Paris (RJ)
13:15 Athens (RJ)
13:15 London (RJ)
21:00 Dhahran (RJ)
21:30 Riyadh (RJ)
21:30 Jeddah (RJ)
22:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:45 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
other Flights (Terminal 2)
07:05 Larnaca (CY)
09:15 Bangkok, Beirut (ME)
12:15 Larnaca, Vienna (OS)
14:00 Athens (AZ)
14:30 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
15:30 Riyadh (SU)

17:45 Damascus (AZ)

21:25 Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apples 380/200
Banana 680/180
Banana (Mukhammar) 620/120
Beans 520/130
Carrot 100/30
Cauliflower 280/220
Cherry (rod) 750/600
Cucumbers (large) 100/30
Cucumbers (small) 170/120
Eggplant 300/200
Garlic 170/50
Grapes 700/150
Lemon 580/480
Marrow (large) 150/100
Marrow (small) 250/200
Mint 400/50
Okra 1400/50
Onion (dry) 140/70
Orange 340/200
Peaches 600/500
Pepper (hot) 360/300
Pepper (sweet) 300/220
Potato 230/150
Tomato 130/60
Watermelon 240/150
Watermelon 140/60



Majali meets with writers, youth and administrators

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday met with President of the Jordanian Writers Association (JWA) Hani Al Amad and members of the association's Administrative Committee.

Dr. Majali outlined the writers' role illuminating the current problems of the Arab nation.

He said it was imperative that all intellectuals and writers contribute, through their works, to revealing the truth to the public.

The writers said they were always and will always be defending Jordan's principled stands as expressed by His Majesty King Hussein, describing these stands as honourable for all Arabs, particularly Jordanians.

They also voiced their satisfaction with the atmosphere of freedom and democracy, and the right to freely express their views through the mass media. This, they said, will contribute to the development of the literary, intellectual and cultural movements in the Kingdom and will give other countries a model to follow.



IMPROVING PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday said Jordan welcomes the expertise of other Arab countries in developing its own public organisations and the performance of its civil servants. In a meeting at his office with Ahmad Abdul Rahman, head of the department in charge of financial and administrative control and inspection in Egypt, the Prime Minister said that Jordan hopes to avail itself of related cooperation between the two countries in this regard for the sake of improving government services to the public. Mr. Abdul Rahman conveyed to Dr. Majali his own impressions of the just concluded seminar on administrative and financial control and inspection in government departments held in Amman, praising the high level of performance and the outcome of the seminar. The meeting was attended by Khaled Al Zou'bi, Minister of State for Legal Affairs and Mohammad Thuneibat, president of the newly-created Control and Inspection Bureau.

The prime minister also met Wednesday at the prime ministry with a delegation representing Al Hussein Youth Camp which will participate in the fourth Arab Youth Conference due to start in Algeria next week.

Dr. Majali was briefed by the head of the delegation on the trip to Algeria, which will take its members to Egypt, Libya and Tunisia before arriving in Algiers.

Members of the team will meet with Arab youth in these countries and will be familiarised with youth life patterns there.

The prime minister lauded these activities, saying such meeting would give Jordanian youth the chance to meet their peers in Arab countries and be acquainted with their conditions.

He urged the 32-member delegation to convey a good and honest image of Jordan, as well as its endeavours to unify the ranks of the Arab nation.

The meeting was attended by Minister of State for the Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Al Anani.

Regent urges matching training supply with demand for country's skilled labour

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has said that supply in vocational training should match the demand for skilled labour.

In an address at a seminar on vocational training in Jordan Tuesday the Regent called on the participants to thoroughly examine the related German and Japanese experiments and compare them with the Jordanian situation.

The World Bank believes that the Kingdom could serve as the Singapore of the region in the future, but this dream can only become a reality when education and training on the one hand match production, on the other said the regent.

Noting that Jordan suffers from a large gap between demand and supply in the field of vocational training, Prince Hassan said that bridging this gap can not be achieved without the help of a data base providing information to the decision makers.

Prince Hassan reviewed with the participants several working papers under discussion and said the concerned authorities should determine the difference between the skilled and unskilled workers and also the country's needs in both categories.

He also called on the industrial sector to adopt the practice of the agricultural sector which he said, has been honouring excellent and distinguished farmers.

To promote vocational training, the Regent called for seminars and meetings between decision makers and officials on the one hand and industrialists on the other at the Sahab, industrial city to discuss modernisation of industry.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday addresses a seminar on vocational training in Jordan (Petra photo)

Referring to the concept of comprehensive education, the Regent said, with due respect to the various institutions' efforts, Jordan has a long way to go to achieve the true concept of comprehensive education.

Participants concluded seminar Wednesday by issuing a set of recommendations calling among other things for a re-examination of 3 Jordan's national education and vocational training programmes.

They said that vocational training ought to help the country acquire a sufficient skilled workforce to meet its needs for socio-economic development.

The participants urged the concerned authorities to speed up work on a draft law for organising vocational and crafts work, adding that such a law would provide classification of workshops, workers and others employed in the local labour market and would ensure that Jordanian workers could compete in regional labour markets.

The seminar called on businesses and employers to contribute towards raising level of curricula of vocational centres and help in deciding on training programmes that best suit the

local labour market.

The recommendations called for the development of programmes for advanced training of instructors in vocational centres and demanded a greater share from the state's treasury be allocated to vocational training.

The recommendations called for the creation of a national committee to coordinate matters related to technical and vocational training in Jordan.

The seminar was organised by the National Centre for Educational Research and Development in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in addition to the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC).

Visiting Mayo Clinic team seeks medical cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — The head of an American medical team from the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, now on a visit to Jordan, said he was impressed with Jordan, the Jordanian people and the country's development programme.

J.W. Smith met with Information Minister Ma'an Abu Nowar to review Jordan's scientific, economic and medical development as well as cooperation in these fields with the United States.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the American team plans to propose to the concerned authorities in the Kingdom a set of programmes including the establishment of a communications

system and a linkage between Jordanian medical institutions and the Mayo Clinic in the U.S.

Petra said the three-member team is visiting Jordan in a bid to build bridges of cooperation in medical fields.

It was at the Mayo Clinic that His Majesty King Hussein underwent surgery and subsequent check ups over the past year.

The American team later called at the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation and was briefed on its development and plans.

The team toured various sections and inspected the satellite channel of Jordan Television.



Minister of Information Ma'an Abu Nowar meets with visiting medical team from the Mayo Clinic of Minnesota in the United States (Petra photo)

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Korean artist Hong-Lyeon Lee at the Royal Cultural Centre — Opening ceremony at 6 p.m.
- ★ Art exhibition by Syrian artist Sakhr Farzat at the Balqa Art Gallery, Fubeis City.
- ★ Art exhibition by Syrian artist Nidal artist Nidal Al Sawasi at the Royal Cultural Centre — Opening ceremony at 6 p.m.
- ★ Art exhibition by Jamal Khmeish and Jihad Abu Suleiman at the Housing Bank Gallery — Opening ceremony at 6 p.m.
- ★ Art exhibition by Fadwa Al Nabulsi at the Phoenix Art Gallery — Opening ceremony at 5 p.m.
- ★ Paintings by Salem Al Dabbagh, Himat Ali and Karim Rassan at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m.-3 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by 26 Jordanian artists at Eshbeela Art Gallery, 6th Circle, Amra Shopping Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of art works by Zuhaira Zaqtan at Baladna Art Gallery.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture entitled "Preliminary Excavations at Tel El Handaqq South," by Meredith S. Chesson and Ian Kuijt of Harvard University at 7 p.m. at the American Centre for Oriental Research.

FIELD TRIP

- ★ Field trip, organised by the Friends of Archaeology, on Friday to the Nymphaeum and 'Ain Ghazal in Amman. Departure will be from the Amra Hotel parking lot at 9 a.m. in private cars.

JERASH FESTIVAL

- ★ Concert by a Korean trio and the orchestra of the National Music Conservatory (NMC) at 6 p.m. on Friday at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ H9L9 Concerts by Lebanese singer Ragheb Alameh on Thursday and Friday at 8:30 at the Southern Theatre of Jerash.
- ★ Arabic play for children entitled "Nabil and Hisham at School" at 11 noon on Thursday and Friday at the Palace of Culture.



\$109m GRANT TO BUILD DANA CENTRE: The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) signed an agreement wherein USAID provided the RSCN with \$109,000 in grant funds to finance the construction of a handicrafts training and visitors centre at Dana Wildlife Reserve near Tafila. The centre, which is expected to be completed in September 1994 will provide community development and training to the inhabitants of the Dana village and the surrounding areas in tourist support services and handicrafts such as weaving, polishing semi-precious stones and honey production. The RSCN established the Dana Wildlife Reserve in 1990 with plans to initiate an integrated development project for the residents of the area and the nearby villages that would transform the whole site into a tourist attraction, noted RSCN President Anis Muasher in a statement after signing the agreement. Mr. Muasher said Dana enjoys a unique touristic location where traditional handicrafts can be made and marketed for the benefit of the local people population. The agreement was signed on behalf of USAID by Jordan director Tom Oliver (Photo by Aynsley Floyd)

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New men perfume launched

At a press conference held at Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental Tuesday, Ibrahim and Khaled Abu Shakra Company announced that it was introducing to the Jordanian market a new perfume from Guy Laroche Paris perfumes, under the name Horizon.

Mr. Khaled Abu Shakra, the company's representative, mentioned the characteristics of the new perfume at the press conference, explaining that it was introduced to the Middle East directly after Europe because of the importance of this market for European and international companies. Ms. Gerdini, from Laroche company, said: "There is a place where the air, sky, sea and land blend into eternity ... an imaginary place which has long been an inspiration for dreams and aspirations ... an absolute and perfect line; the horizon. Horizon is an imaginary circular line where the observer stands at the centre and where the sky, sea and land appear to meet."

"Horizon is blue. Blue is a symbol of water and sky, of the depths, of spirituality, of the infinite and the pure, of dreams and contemplation ... a symbol of serenity."

It is worth mentioning that Ibrahim and Khaled Abu Shakra had established the gifts corner stores specialising in selling perfumes and presents. The company has three branches in Jordan.

The press conference was attended by representatives of the mass media and several persons interested in perfumes.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
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One step forward

THE TENTH round of peace talks between Israel and the Arab parties triggered a string of events and reactions in the region that can be described as positive. With direct Israeli-PLO contacts now viewed as a forgone conclusion, after the well-publicised talks held between the two sides in Washington, the stage is now set for a much more meaningful peace dialogue between the two. This development has not only been on the agenda of the Palestinians but also on the minds of all the other parties who saw right from the start that without direct negotiations between Israel and the PLO there can be no real opportunity to achieve peace in the region.

The failure of the last session in Washington to produce any tangible results has jolted the Israelis and the Palestinians into direct communication. For this reason, if not for others, the last round was not a total disaster since it can be credited with having served as a catalyst that brought the Palestinians and the Israelis closer to each other. But this is not all.

The visit of Dennis Ross to the Middle East was in itself a positive development since it succeeded to reactivate the peace process. Ross succeeded at least to keep the parties on talking terms by offering to reconsider the latest U.S. draft paper on the continuation of the bilateral talks. The shuttle diplomacy that he was engaged in between the Arab capitals on one side and Tel Aviv on the other, did produce some meaningful results that could be interpreted as sufficient to pave the ground for a visit by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, before the 11th round. Cooling off the situation in South Lebanon may also have been on Ross's agenda. But that might have only been a prelude to once again engaging the two parties in serious negotiations. It seems that there was enough progress on that score to cause Syria to accept to participate in the next round on schedule. Meanwhile, the Jordanians and Palestinians were busy further articulating their future relationship, in anticipation of positive developments in the coming rounds of the peace talks.

While the Palestinians and Jordanians, in their desire to live in a peaceful and tranquil region, are forming committees, the Palestinian people and their negotiators need to formulate with Israel and the U.S. a declaration of principles that would have the ingredients for a satisfactory final settlement. The Palestinians have all the right to be reluctant to enter into any form or phase of interim self-rule unless and until the issues of jurisdiction and Jerusalem are addressed to their satisfaction.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily attacked the United Nations Organisation, describing it as a tool in the hand of the United States and its allies. It all started as a league of nations but after World War II this organisation has slowly but surely developed itself into a gang, led by the United States and aiming at dominating world affairs, said Mr. Mohammad Kawash. All the United Nations agencies and committees are carrying out the directives and the policies charted or planned by the U.S. administration; and indeed, Washington's desires are promptly executed anywhere in the world under the auspices of the world organisation, said the writer. For instance, he said, the Americans feel free to launch an aggression on Iraq or wage a wave of killings in Somalia on the strength of a testimony or a call on the part of a U.N. official who most probably is taking instructions for his actions from his own country or directly from American officials. The Americans, under the umbrella of the United Nations, continue to kill children in Iraq and Somalia, demolish homes of innocent people and impose sanctions at will, continued the writer. At the moment, the Americans are preparing another aggression on Iraq based on the pretext that the Iraqi government does not allow cameras to be installed on its scientific installations, the writer pointed out. He said that only time will tell the number of U.N. officials who are involved in this conspiracy with the United States against the nations of the world. The writer said that in the meantime the Arab governments are keeping silent about the atrocities committed by the Western alliance against their countrymen and kinsmen in the name of the United Nations.

ANOTHER COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily dwelt on Washington's continued claim that it is actively involved, as a full partner in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. Taher Al Udwan said that the American peace coordinator Dennis Ross has just reiterated this American stand to the Syrian leadership in Damascus, following his reiteration of the same statement to the leaders of Jordan and Egypt. But the question to be asked here is: Does any of the Arab parties really believe that Washington would play the role of fair mediator in the ongoing negotiations which have lasted for over 20 months so far? Asked the writer. Any Arab citizen, let alone a leader of an Arab government, believes that the United States is not a fair mediator and that Washington strives only seeks to ensure Israel's security and protect its oil interests in the Arab region, stressed the writer. Despite this fact, it is said to see Arab regimes trying to win Washington's favour and condone its atrocities in Iraq and Somalia. The smaller Arab countries are not to blame as much as the bigger ones which have succumbed totally to Washington's whims and desires, he said. He said that these major Arab states can restore a little respect for the Arab World by adopting a more rational stand in their dealings with the United States.

A tale of two banks by Scrutator

By G.H. Jansen

The gap between the mood and outlook of the people of the East Bank and that of the Palestinians in the West Bank is as wide as the Jordan Valley which separates them physically. And the first step towards filling that gap would be the recognition that it exists.

On the West Bank, the mood is one of bleak despair and almost total lack of hope. On the East Bank there is, at worst, worry and uncertainty. The West Bankers see themselves caught in this dilemma: there has been no forward movement in the so-called peace process but they cannot move back, that is, out of and away from the talks, though this last assumption is beginning to be questioned.

Those West Bankers who want the talks to continue — a small minority it has to be said — argue that they must go on because there is no alternative to negotiation and because the Palestinians want a settlement since only a settlement would bring them peace and a quiet life.

The answer to these two points is that the Palestinian delegation must not go back to the eleventh fruitless, useless round and that if there is no

alternative, that should worry the U.S. and Israel more than the Palestinians; if there is no alternative, things would then remain as they are, bad as that is. And as for wanting peace and quiet, yes, fair enough, and who does not? But not at any price.

A major cause of West Bank despair is the universal opinion that "the leadership" has lost all credibility — and by "leadership" is meant both the PLO in Tunis and the delegation composed of local personalities. Feelings against the PLO are quite bitter because of its policy mistakes, because of its openly-recognised corruption and because it seems to have different objectives and, particularly, a different set of priorities from those of the West Bankers.

The PLO, above all, wants U.S. recognition, on almost any terms — hence, for instance, the most recent silly lying story about "high level contacts" between Israel and the PLO which turned out to be only "attempted contacts". Perhaps the PLO feels that if the U.S. talks to it, then the contributions from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf would be resumed, but is that assured? The West Bankers, on the other hand, first and foremost,

want to get the Israelis off their backs and an end to the arrests, the torture and the killing. In short, a very different set of priorities.

The West Bankers, sadly and angrily, make the point that the power-balance between Tunis and Jerusalem is the opposite of what it was when the intifada started. Then, when the uprising took the PLO by surprise, Tunis said: "You act, we support." Now Tunis says: "We decide and you obey." The harsh pronouncements of Bassam Abu Sharif, Mr. Yasser Arafat's mouthpiece, are particularly resented.

One aspect of this distrust, now amounting to dislike, is the firm conviction among just about everybody, something that is taken for granted, that President Yasser Arafat is trying to undercut, and perhaps even destroy, the leadership of Faisal Husseini which, out of jealousy, Mr. Arafat sees as a threat to his position. The West Bankers were surprised that there should be any surprise at this, to them, obvious fact.

That the Palestinians believe this is a fact; but whether they believe corresponds to the facts on the ground is, of course, another matter.

Anyway, the belief is that Mr. Arafat weakens Mr. Husseini by keeping him short of funds — and perhaps there is a genuine shortage of funds — and by keeping him away from the West Bank, Mr. Husseini's power base.

Mr. Husseini, it is said, is \$1.25 million in debt and so can no longer face his friends, whom he can no longer help, and his creditors, whom he can no longer repay.

If this is so, it is not time that the scores of Palestinian millionaires got together to lift this financial burden off the shoulders of a brave and honest leader?

King Fahd, it is said, told Mr. Husseini that he would provide funds but only if they went to Mr. Husseini directly and not through the PLO. But the ever-loyal Husseini said he would at least have to keep Mr. Arafat informed. So no Saudi money.

Of the members of the delegation only Dr. Haidar Abdul Shaif is held in universal esteem, just about everybody else has been "burnt." Perhaps this was the U.S./Israel tactic: to make the talks worthless by refusing any concessions so that the public would then turn against the leaders who could get nothing for them.

The West Bankers believe that they are not as impotent vis-a-vis the Israelis and the U.S. as may appear. Because if they pull out from the talks, the whole peace process would collapse.

And on the East Bank, knowledgeable observers predict that if the talks fail, the present Jordanian government of Abdul Salam Majali would collapse overnight because its commitment to the talks was its raison d'être.

Neither on the East Bank nor on the West Bank is there, as yet, a full, firm grasp of two new factors in the Arab-Israeli-U.S. triangle. With the new Clinton administration settling down, it is obvious that it has a new and very, very different Middle East policy from that of Bush-Baker. They wobbled between Israel and the Arabs, Mr. Clinton and company "stand fore square behind Israel," to use the words of Martin Indyk, one of the half dozen gentlemen behind the important policy-making positions for the Middle East in the State Department and the White House.

The second new factor is that the Clinton administration is fairly openly moving away from the bedrock of Bush-

Baker policy — Resolution 242 and "land-for-peace." The Gaza Strip, the West Bank and Jerusalem are no longer considered by the U.S. "occupied territories" which would be returned in some form, in some way or other. They are now "disputed territories," sovereignty over which is debatable.

Jordan may yet have to face a very grave consequence of Israel's U.S.-backed dominance of the West Bank. The plan is to leave to the Palestinians only three confined enclaves, around Nablus, Ramallah and Hebron. Those outside these small ghettos will be ethnically cleansed and pushed eastwards towards Jordan. To prevent yet another mass influx, is Jordan prepared to put the army, with barbed wire entanglements, on the eastern shore of the river to keep hundreds of thousands out by main force?

The East Bank can no longer afford to continue its somewhat cool and detached attitude towards the tragedy that is overtaking the West Bank.

Scrutator has for many years been a sympathetic observer of the Palestinian scene and recently visited both East and West Banks.

Some in Israel are pleased about the crackdown against the ADL

By Jeffrey Steinberg and Paul Goldstein

On Jan. 8, 1993, when the Executive Intelligence Review (EIR) released the book, The Ugly Truth About the ADL, there were already clear signs that the once-monolithic Zionist lobby inside the United States was beginning to crumble. When the San Francisco Chronicle revealed one week later that police had raided the offices of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) in both the Bay Area and Los Angeles, and were probing a massive ADL espionage ring implicating league officials in the passing of classified government documents to Israel and South Africa, it became even more evident that something dramatic was unraveling inside "the Lobby."

Manifestations that serious policy differences within the Zionist lobby leadership in the United States had erupted, began to appear in the summer of 1992 with the defection of a well-placed employee of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). Greg Slabodkin, who is now living in Israel, quit AIPAC's "opposition research" staff and publicly described a string of horror stories about AIPAC and ADL spying and physical intimidation of Arab-American and Jewish-American activists opposed to the Likud government's hard-line stance on the Middle East peace talks and the issue of a Palestinian state. Writing in the July 1992 issue of the Washington Report on the Middle East, Mr. Slabodkin charged that "today, such national Jewish organisations as the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) are using (McCarthyite) tactics to stifle open debate of U.S. policy in the Middle East." He charged that "the pro-Israel lobby" has redefined anti-Semitism to include "any criticism of Israel or its actions."

In May, as the probe of the ADL spying operation was gaining steam on the West Coast, Mr. Slabodkin appeared, giving an interview to Village Voice writer Robert Friedman, the author of a highly critical biography of the late rabbi Meir Kahane of the Jewish Defence League. Mr. Slabodkin named ADL fact-finder Yehudit Barsky as a conduit for Israeli police data into files at ADL headquarters. According to Mr. Slabodkin, Mr. Barsky received Israeli police dossiers from embassy officials on Palestinian human rights activists who were beginning to receive favourable coverage in the American press.

Rabin delivers a warning

Last autumn, shortly after his election to become prime minister of Israel, Labour Party leader Yitzhak Rabin came to Washington to meet behind closed doors with the national leadership of AIPAC. According to reports from several participants, Mr. Rabin tore into the AIPAC executives for their rabidly pro-Likud policies. He demanded a thorough house-cleaning, or else, he threatened, he would order a full-scale public break with AIPAC by his Labour government. Shortly after the session,

AIPAC Executive Director Thomas Dine, an architect of the hard-right turn, was promoted to a low-visibility post.

On Nov. 3, 1992, AIPAC President David Steiner was forced to resign his post after an audiotape became public in which he boasted to a prospective contributor about AIPAC's clout with Bill Clinton, and his personal role in secretly obtaining billions of dollars in additional aid for Israel from Bush administration Secretary of State James Baker. New York businessman Harry Katz provided the tape of his phone conversation with Mr. Steiner to a variety of news outlets. On the tape, Mr. Steiner boasted, "We have a dozen people in (Mr. Clinton's) headquarters and they are going to get big jobs" with the new administration.

"The pillorying of AIPAC and ADL inside the United States and the growing internal criticism of their strong-arm methods from inside the Zionist lobby itself has had an echo inside Israel. While the news media inside Israel have blacked out the ADL spy story to a very great extent, the weakening of the U.S. supporters of hard-line policies has enabled Prime Minister Rabin and his fragile Labour coalition government to stay in power and launch a serious effort at reaching some kind of peaceful coexistence with Israel's Arab neighbours."

Five days later, the New York Times published a story on the AIPAC flap, describing the fall-out from the Steiner-Katz incident. The newspaper noted that it came on the heels of a string of other disclosures that have "rocked" AIPAC, including the recent "tongue-lashing" it got from Israeli Prime Minister Rabin. "AIPAC officials insist that they have patched up relations with Mr. Rabin, who will be addressing their annual dinner. Nevertheless, even some AIPAC insiders acknowledge that the Steiner affair did not come out of the blue. Too often, they say, AIPAC has attracted at both the professional and volunteer levels people more interested in wielding power and going to the White House than in dealing with some of the less glamorous particulars of Israeli or American Jewish affairs." The New York Times article referred to this as "the arrogance of power that seemed to infect AIPAC as it grew in leaps and bounds."

Before the end of November, Mr. Steiner had been replaced as AIPAC president by Steve Grossman, a millionaire liberal Democrat with close ties to President-elect Clinton and former Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis. Mr. Grossman told reporters at the time of his appointment that his views on the Middle East were more "dovish" than his predecessor and that he would be working closely with Prime Minister Rabin in efforts to revive the peace process.

ADL hit next

As the new leadership team, more inclined toward a Labour Party orientation concerning

Middle East peace matters, moved into command at AIPAC, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith began to feel some of the same heat from within the Zionist lobby circles.

On Dec. 20, 1992, columnist Richard Cohen, long a friend of the ADL, penned a stinging attack on the league in his regular Sunday column in the Washington Post Magazine. Mr. Cohen chided the ADL for spreading anti-Semitism; "The Anti-Defamation League, having commissioned the Boston polling firm of Martilla and Kiley, to determine the level of anti-Semitism in America, came up with a most gratifying finding. There is less anti-Semitism than there used to be but more than enough to keep the Anti-Defamation League in business. As a Jew, I can say that

harass civil rights activists and even instigate violence against Jewish community leaders in order to whip up support for the ADL's role as a 'Jewish defence agency.'"

On Jan. 15, 1993, the San Francisco Chronicle broke the ADL spy scandal. Indictments against top ADL officials are pending.

Israeli political moves

The pillorying of AIPAC and ADL inside the United States and the growing internal criticism of their strong-arm methods from inside the Zionist lobby itself has had an echo inside Israel. While the news media inside Israel have blacked out the ADL spy story to a very great extent, the weakening of the U.S. supporters of hard-line policies has enabled Prime Minister Rabin and his fragile Labour coalition government to stay in power and launch a serious effort at reaching some kind of peaceful coexistence with Israel's Arab neighbours.

During May, 1993, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has attempted to revive his mid-1980s appeal for a Middle East "Marshall Plan," now amplified by proposals for a Turkey-to-Morocco rail line aimed at integrating the eastern Mediterranean region economically. In a June 7 interview with Reuters, Mr. Peres reported that a peace treaty with Jordan is all but finalised, and that Israel hopes to complete bilateral agreements with Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt. While the settlement of the Palestine issue is a thornier matter, there are now persistent reports from the official Israeli press of a possible unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, making a land-for-peace deal a real possibility for the first time.

Sources in both Israel and the United States say that the short-term moves on the part of the Rabin government to regain some momentum in the regional peace process are a reflection of the temporary problems at ADL and AIPAC. As long as the American Jewish circles aligned with the Likud hard-liners are under attack, the prospects of momentum on the peace process are at least improved.

A recent issue of the Washington Jewish Week reflected this situation. The June 3 Washington Jewish Week carried a strong editorial defence of the ADL, drawing extensively from the league's press releases. The same issue featured a full-page advertisement by a previously unknown group called "Pro-Israel," blasting the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations for giving membership status to Americans For Peace Now, a group supporting a land-for-peace settlement which is linked to a faction in the Rabin government. The ad also contained a harsh attack against President Clinton for his own proclivities towards favouring the Peace Now viewpoint, and for appointing several members of Americans For Peace Now to top posts in his administration.

If the Washington Jewish Week editorial and advertisement reflect a decision on the part of the hard-liners inside Israel and the Zionist lobby inside the United States to go into a more aggressive posture, fireworks can be expected — Executive Intelligence Review.

Signs of the times

By Gwynne Dyer

TAKE THE innate need of human beings to impose pattern and meaning on even the most random events. Add the general need of the mass media to dramatise, and top with the need of the pipe-sucking pundit to show off its analytical prowess by linking every local incident to some grand pattern of politics and history.

The need for a dramatic pattern in current affairs is so strong that if reality doesn't provide it, pundits will invent one. Which is why the mass media have agreed that the end of the cold war has unleashed a wave of ethnic violence.

Horsefathers: The fact is that there is no more ethnic violence in the world now than there has been at any other time since the fall of the colonial empires.

The recent and belated collapse of the last colonial empire, that of the Russians, has led to rather more ethnic violence than we are used to in the area once ruled by the Russian empire and its successor, the Soviet Union. But when you consider that a 300-year-old empire has just collapsed, there has actually been much less violence than you would expect.

There is a dreadful war of succession raging in former Yugoslavia, and nasty little wars sputter on in the Caucasus and Tajikistan. But out of the 425 million people who lived under Soviet domination until three years ago, fewer than 50 million have heard a single burst of machine-gun fire since then. They live amid poverty and turmoil, but so far they are living in peace.

Western Europe? The Basques, the two kinds of Irish in Northern Ireland and the Corsicans all have crazies in their midst who blow people and things up in the name of sacred sovereignty, but they've been doing that for decades. Nothing has changed there recently on the ethnic front — and at least Europe's ideological crazies of "the left" (Red Army Faction, Red Brigades, etc.) are aging into irrelevance.

The ideological crazies of the right, the sort who burn the houses of Turks in Germany with the residents inside, are a more disturbing phenomenon now.

Europe, the home of modern nationalism, is clearly still susceptible to the more virulent forms of the virus.

But it's over 15 years since central London was first overrun by skinheads (many of whom belonged to the National Front until their pimples cleared up). Yet Britain is still governed by Dull Normals like John Major, not by juvenile fascists. Are German skinheads really more of a sign of the times than the fact that the Czechs and the Slovaks managed to have a civilised divorce, without a shot being fired?

As for the rest of the world, there is no pattern of mounting ethnic violence. There is certainly a pattern of chronic ethnic violence, which is about what you would expect in a primate species with strong tribal reflexes and lots of ambitious people who are willing to push our buttons in extremely cynical ways. But it isn't getting worse, and it might even be getting better.

The Iraqi regime has murdered up to 200,000 Kurds in its attempted genocide against the Kurdish minority since 1989, but Eritrea's independence last month marks the end of a 30-year Ethiopian campaign to hold onto the province which veered perilously close to attempted genocide at times. And the Lebanese civil war is over.

There is a government-backed ethnic cleansing under way against the Kasanian minority in Shaba province in Zaïre. But three decades of rule by the Tutsi minority in Burundi, reinforced by a pogrom against the Hutu majority in 1972 that killed at least 100,000 people, have been peacefully ended by a democratic election. And South Africa's world's longest-running drama of ethnic domination, is negotiating its way towards a democratic solution to its conflicts.

The whole notion that ethnic violence is spreading uncontrollably is ethnocentric garbage. It has been cobbled together by underemployed commentators with nothing better to pontificate about, and supported solely by the fact that there's a bit more ethnic conflict in Europe (which some people still mistake for the world) — The Jerusalem Post.

LETTERS

Democracy at work

To the Editor:

Last week's exchange between His Majesty King Hussein and members of the Upper House of Parliament broadcast by Jordan Television was a rare event. Jordanians could see for the first time how the King would seek the counsel of his council. This was full-fledged democracy in action and on TV screens.

So far, people thought that the King's council, the Senate, was reflecting the policies the King wanted implemented. Yet what we saw on TV was certainly different. Some agreed with the King's intention to change or amend the Election Law while some cautioned against any change.

The King and the senators provide an excellent example of how the concepts of shura and democracy work.

Dr. Sa'ad Abudayeh,
Associate Professor,
Yarmouk University.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



Reinventing the role of the father

By Marie Gaëlle Florent

The French law of July 22 1987 (called the Maltret law) gives divorced parents equal rights in parental authority. However, after a divorce or a separation (just over 100,000 divorces are pronounced every year in France), the father only gets custody of the children in 9.3 per cent of cases.

PARIS — Is the law badly made? Are the judges unfair? Or, with the development in attitudes, should we query the rôle a father should play in our societies?

The time when fathers, with the responsibilities of being the heads of the family, simply played a rôle of authority and protector, is over. Thirty years after the explosion of feminism, men are having a tough time finding their true place in the new family situation. With mothers having full authority and playing the part of both parents, one is no longer sure what a father is for.

Who is to blame? Some

people reply that it is society's fault. Since the 1970s, psychosociologists point out the "ostracism of the father in over-organised societies". Boris Cyrulnik, in his book "Sous le Signe du Lien" (Under The Sign of the Link), published by Hachette, asserts that "The rôle of parent becomes transparent owing to female vigour which is strengthened by the Welfare State. Our present-day fathers, who have been dispossessed and eliminated from the intermediary space between the mother and society are unable to exist sensorially in their families because the organisation of our socie-

ty pushes them out".

Psychologists are also responsible. In propagating their theories, they have contributed to "inflating motherhood", always giving greater importance to links between the mother and child and neglecting relations with the father and his biological affiliation.

The law is also guilty as it reinforces the parental power of women, as, applying to non-married couples, it excludes the natural fathers even if they acknowledge the child and live with it. Thus, the 30 per cent of children born out of wedlock legally "belong" to their mothers and not to their fathers.

Models

Until 1987, in order to establish equal rights in parental authority, it took a lengthy and expensive court case. The law of July 22, 1987 has simplified the procedure. It is enough for the parents to make a joint declaration to the judge who will ascertain the child's belonging to both parents and their wish to exert their parental authority equally.

The law of Jan. 8, 1993, modifying the common law,



One can be a father without being a 'dad' and a 'dad' without being a father

goes even further. Parental authority is "exercised jointly if the parents of a child born out of wedlock, both acknowledge it before it is one year old and live together at the time of acknowledgement".

At a time when there is much discussion concerning

male identity, it might be interesting for men to become responsible as fathers themselves, for it is they who govern, make and abolish the laws and make the decisions.

Fathers today, deprived of their children when they divorce, in quest of an identity and of a model to hand down,

urgently have to reinvent the rôle of a father. The fact of being a "dad" does not depend on the law or on genetic reality, but on a personal decision which is his alone. One can be a father without being a "dad" and a "dad" without being a father — L'Actualité en France.

Successful Asian women belie downtrodden image

By Jeremy Wagstaff
Reuters

JAKARTA — Indonesian marketing manager Chrysanti Hasibuan-Sedyono was cleaning out her daughter's room when she came across something that changed the direction of her life: Her daughter's diary.

"I read the diary and I read about how much she missed me. We loved each other dearly but I realised at a certain point that my products were competing for attention with my children. That was a rude awakening," she said in an interview.

She resigned from her job soon after to spend more time with her three children. She later returned to less demanding work that allowed her to balance the rôles of mother and businesswoman.

Ms. Hasibuan-Sedyono's experience is not unusual in a region where women are in-

creasingly free to enter business, though not at the expense of their family responsibilities.

But women report success in finding compromises that are compatible with Asian traditions of the family.

"In the course of our research we found that South East Asian societies are among the most hospitable to women managers," said Victoria Licuanan, the editor of a newly published study of women entrepreneurs in South East Asia.

Authors of the book, sponsored by the Manila-based Asian Institute of Management and the Canadian International Development Agency, interviewed 455 successful women from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

They concluded that a typical woman entrepreneur was a middle-class 42-year-old, married for about 18

years and a mother of three. She also has an extended family and domestic network — advantages not generally enjoyed by her counterparts in the West.

The study found a rise in the number of women reaching the upper echelons of business, despite continuing discrimination and the absence of any real institutional framework for ensuring equal opportunity.

In the past two decades in South East Asia, the number of women who are self-employed or in management posts has risen by between three and 10 per cent, and women now account for roughly 25 per cent of these two categories.

"A major difference seems to be that the South East Asian woman has an extended family to support her, or at least a family helper. This does not seem to be so applicable in the West," said

Ms. Hasibuan-Sedyono, who gathered data on Indonesian women for the book.

Armed with the support of a wider family base, South East Asian women said they were able to devote more time to work without the burden of worrying excessively about their children.

But some said there were limits to this freedom.

"No matter how successful a woman could be in her career, people would always end up asking 'how is it with her family?'. And unfortunately, whenever there was something wrong with the family, the women were always to blame," said Gunarijah Mochdie, vice-president of Indonesian pharmaceutical firm PT Sunthi Sepuri.

Despite the traditional problems, women entrepreneurs interviewed agreed that their success was in no small part due to the peculiar nature of business in South

East Asia, which has long focused on the small, often family-run business.

The possibility of being able to run such a business from home provided a ready opportunity for women to become involved without formal training, said the book, entitled *Women Entrepreneurs In South East Asia*.

And what of the lingering perception of Asian women, downtrodden by chauvinist men, resorting to their female wiles and intuition to reap success? The book says some truth remains.

While the study emphasised its conclusion that the qualities for success in female entrepreneurs were little different from those in male counterparts, it also acknowledged that her uphill struggle against sexist attitudes was far from over.

Those women who acknowledged that they met male stubbornness from hus-

bands and colleagues gave differing views about how to deal with it.

Ms. Hasibuan-Sedyono said that women chose not to confront men either at the workplace or at home, preferring to use gentle persuasion with recalcitrant staff and the soft touch with ruffled husbands.

"I think South East Asian women have a way of going around, of not threatening the ego of the man... I think we make sure that our men are not hurt by our success. There are ways to get around it," she said.

The book played down such issues, saying women managers ruled out the female intuition of lore. But they all acknowledged they had to battle preconception of women as "fickle, flighty, soft and indecisive" and suitable only for "feminine" jobs.

BOOK REVIEWS

Time for serious initiative

The Chemical Weapons Convention and Arms Control in the Middle East

By Peter Herby
International Peace Research Institute, Oslo 1992, \$15

Concern over the proliferation of weapons technology of various types in the Middle East has led to a stream of books coming onto the market, tackling the subject from different angles. This volume looks into the question of chemical weapons disarmament, and its related processes, in the Middle East within the context of the Chemical Weapons Convention, opened in Paris for signature on Jan. 13, 1993. Given the recent use of chemical weapons in the region and the probability of their use in the future, one cannot underestimate the timeliness of this book.

Any serious chemical arms control initiative in the Middle East must be based on a realistic assessment of the capabilities of regional states in this field, since region-wide confidence in the measures to be implemented requires certainty and knowledge about each country's chemical stockpiles to be destroyed. Although the book's third chapter attempts to provide an overview of such capabilities, Herby notes that deliberate ambiguity and purposeful disinformation by states in this area tend to complicate matters.

An important thrust of the book is that, given the wide-ranging nature of obstacles on the way towards chemical disarmament in the Middle East which are a result of political conflicts, "a confidence-building process leading to eventual simultaneous accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention," is essential. The book proposes a rather long list of measures which could be implemented by the regional states to improve confidence amongst them on the long and rocky road towards chemical disarmament.

Herby, very significantly, recognises the fact that chemical disarmament in the Middle East, "will need to find its place within a broader regional arms control process which includes conventional arms, nuclear weapons (and) missile proliferation..." Although interrelated, however, he sug-

gests progress in all the spheres need not be simultaneous and chemical disarmament could be matched later in other areas.

This is a bold suggestion and whether, say, the Arabs would be willing to put their chemical weapons capability on the arms control negotiating table while Israel retains its nuclear weapons remains to be seen. The success of such a proposal would depend on a degree of political trust which is yet to come about, as is well recognised by Herby — Middle East International.

Mohammad Ziarati

A many coloured thing

The Shi'ites: Ritual And Popular Piety In A Muslim Community

By David Pinault
I.B. Tauris, London 1992, £24.95
The Sufi Brotherhoods In The Sudan
By Ali Saleh Karrar
C. Hurst & Co., London 1992, £30

Islam is often described as a rigid, narrow, formalistic faith but the subject matter of these two books shows it to be variegated, accommodating and a many coloured thing. It has, of course, been said that Shi'ism and the Sufi brotherhood do not reflect the essential nature of Islam because they are outside its main stream. The very opposite of the monolithic view of Islam is to be found in the writings of such scholars as Celner, Geertz and Gilsenan, who find such variety in Islam as to raise doubts whether there is any one such thing.

Dr. Pinault is clearly worried about the Sunni-Shi'ite divide because he has a chapter on "The Essentials of Islam Common to the Shi'ite and Sunni Traditions," but the more he labours to show how the two traditions overlap the clearer it becomes that a gap exists between them, and on fundamental issues. Hence while conceding that "The Qur'an lacks references to specifically Shi'ite issues," he enters the caveat that "Sunni and Shi'ite traditions diverge

from each other in practice far more than in theory."

The "practice" that Pinault describes in detail and with sympathy is the "ritual and popular piety" of the Muslim community in Hyderabad in southern India, especially during the mourning month of Muharram. This is virgin territory and the material he presents on Matam, the self-mortification of the Shi'ite worshiper, is fascinating. But is it Islam? Perhaps it should suffice that the community in Hyderabad believes that it is, while the usual Sunni view of such manifestations is that only God can decide who is or is not a true Muslim.

The Sufi brotherhoods or Tariqas are, in broad terms, the expression within Sunni Islam of those tendencies that are openly manifested in Shi'ism, even though at certain times and in certain places Shi'ites too have been critical of the Tariqas, which they have seen as competitors in the expression of "popular piety". With good reason, because throughout the Islamic World the Tariqas are immensely popular and therefore powerful, though their existence is semi-clandestine, as if they were something shameful. That is certainly so in the Muslim countries of Asia where the view of the Muslim establishments is that of the Pakistani scholar, Fazlur Rahman, which is that popular Sufism is "Islam...at the mercy of spiritual delinquents."

Quite otherwise in Africa, where it was Sufi scholars and holy men who were largely responsible for the spread of Islam across the continent. In Sudan the Tariqas are especially prominent in religious life, which is why it is a pity that Dr. Karrar's book is so detailed and knowledgeable that it is more suitable for the scholar than the general reader. After chronicling the history of Islam and the Tariqas in Sudan (where he supersedes Trimmingham's hitherto standard works on the subjects), Karrar has chapters on "Structure and Organisation" and "Initiation and Ritual" which are most valuable and interesting because they are written with intimate, inside knowledge that is not easy to come by. Karrar's book is a welcome example of a new tendency in English-language Islamic scholarship — books about Islam written by Muslims. If the number of books on Islam written by non-Muslims had been matched by an equal number of books on Christianity written by non-Christians that situation would have been regarded as abnormal, which it is. Happily, as this volume shows, Islam is beginning to find its own authentic voice — Middle East International.

G.H. Jansen

Diary

MYSTERY MOVE TO THE TOP: Mr. Mohammad Saqqaf, who had served as minister of supply in Sharif Zeid Ibn Shaker's government, has just been appointed as a special advisor to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Notwithstanding the obvious and qualitative knowledge that Mr. Saqqaf carries with him to the Royal Court, his new post has been seen by some political cynics as a case of the advisor accepting good advice. The advice has everything to do with the next parliamentary elections and the minister's intentions to take part in them as we have been told. Mr. Saqqaf was gearing up to declare himself as a candidate for Amman's Third District when someone — or some people — whispered in his ear that he should stay away from the unnecessary expense since the contest would be an uphill task for him. Mr. Saqqaf was still weighing his options when the news of his appointment made headline news in yesterday's Arabic newspapers, as far as we know. Can it be that that whisper finally changed his mind about contesting the hotly-contested seat in West Amman, or there is more to the story of his appointment that we do not know? The Diary did in fact try to ask this question directly to the well-respected minister, but he was unavailable for comment. Mabrouk on the new job, anyway.

WHILE ON THE SUBJECT OF APPOINTMENTS:

The resignation of Amman Mayor Mohammad Al Bashir was officially announced Tuesday but sources told the Diary the decision was taken long before the cabinet of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali assumed office in late May. Officially, Mr. Bashir resigned in order to run for parliament. Not exactly, sources say, contending that the mayor's resignation is the delayed effect of friction with the previous government. The mayorship of Amman is one of many senior positions made vacant after the formation of Dr. Majali's government. Candidates for mayor now are former Mayor Ali Suheimat, who had served as deputy prime minister in Sharif Zeid's cabinet, and Ali Abu Al Ragheb, former minister of energy in the same government.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT A LA AMMAN:

Three cases of highway robbery went unreported during the past few weeks because most likely the victims were sons of prominent families in society. In one case the victim was attacked by a group of teenagers on the airport road where he was beaten up and a girl friend "kidnapped." The friend was later left alone on University Road unharmed, in another case, the sons of another well-known personality were stopped by apparently the same group of teenagers but having heard of the first story, the car driver hit the fuel pedal knocking one of the teenagers off the car and escaped untouched. While the details of the third case were yet to be revealed, one thing is clear: The press is not doing enough to press the police on some kind of word on what is really happening to the rich and influential among our countrymen.

ROMANTIC CANDIDATE:

An incumbent deputy running for reelection in one of the hottest districts in the Kingdom has many stories to tell about his new campaign. Apart from having to run around the desert looking for some 60 gypsies whose votes he hopes to attract to his ballot box, his relatives apparently had funny encounters of their own. "My cousin was entrusted to visit a certain family in my district and recruit their votes," the candidate told the Diary in his usual humorous style. "When he came back to see me after the visit, I found myself questioning him about all the details of his meeting. Did you ask about his children? Did you tell them that we would help them in any way we could? Did you kiss him as you were leaving?" The by-now-exasperated cousin answered the final question first. "Did I kiss him, you ask? I smooched the man. I literally french kissed him for your sake." What a pornographic way to make it to Parliament again!

RICH AND TACKY:

Amman is always buzzing with gossip about this or that wedding, but never as much as this week. The union between a Saudi businessman and a Jordanian businesswoman at the Intercontinental Hotel earlier this week carried enough talk material to keep the gossip mill grinding for months. It all began with the wedding invitation card which was made of gold and engraved with silver. Then came the revelation that the "front payment" for the marriage was a luxury villa in Amman, and the contract agreement on the "divorce payment" was the bride's weight in gold, no less. But to keep the gossip mongers busy until the actual date of the wedding, invitees were sent another card, along with the golden one, that had the picture of the bride and bridegroom sitting in the middle of specific instructions saying arrival at the gala should be at 8:00 p.m. and warning that the gates will be closed at 8:30. The latter card naturally allotted seat numbers to the invitees, "who should come without their children." On the day of the affair, the bride, adorned in a gold woven white wedding dress, carrying the initials of the happy couple on its tail, walked under arches of flowers accompanied by her by-now-husband in a white tuxedo with a tinge of gold on it. The party featured the well-known Egyptian dancer Dina as well as famous singers King Hussein and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to the applause of dignitaries like Adnan Khashoggi, a spattering of Saudi princes and well-known Jordanian personalities. During the fanfare, the bridegroom was so elated with the signing of Hani Shaker that he took off his gold Rolex watch and presented it to the singer. All of the above had a beginning of course. The happy couple had arrived at the hotel in a convertible Range Rover standing on their feet throughout to greet "well-wishers" (who were none other than passers-by) who flanked Zahran Street on both sides. "Rich but tacky," was how one guest described the wedding. "Another, less grateful guest, could not keep the secret that the bride's family had connections to Muammar Qadhafi."

Nermeen Murad

The Lonely Hearts Computer Club

By Jean-Claude Elias

Last week's Chip Talk was about the level of complexity today's Personal Computers (PC) have reached and how far from "personal" they sometimes are. This week, we take a look at two very different ways to communicate with your PC — as a stand-alone or "connected".

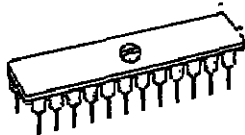
The connection can be with a LAN (local area network), a WAN (wide area network), a main frame (as a terminal) or via a unit called MODEM (MODulator-DEModulator). Even a simple Fax card inside your PC represents a connection. Physically speaking, some of the above protocols need special, dedicated cabling, while the others can work over regular telephone lines.

For most private users, a PC is a single machine, disconnected from the outside world and from other computers. Working in a safe haven, quietly, protected from external attacks, the lone user is guaranteed to escape from many a problem. First of all the stand-alone PC is much less subject to viral infections than networked machines, all users know how much of a nuisance viruses are. Unless he or she brings an infected diskette copy from a friend or a colleague, the single user won't catch any virus.

The advantage of working solo isn't in virus protection only. Being able to use a programme or data files without having to share them with other PCs is another major benefit. On a network, other users can access your files, at the same time you are using them. Naturally there are password systems to prevent PC operators from unauthorized access to data, but all the passwords in the world won't give anybody the same protection level as being physically disconnected from other computers.

Being the only person to use your PC means you will always find your work as you left it. No one will alter the shape or format of your files and programmes. No one will change the way your Windows look when you start them.

chip talk



Most of all, no one will be able to delete important work you might have done.

The benefits end here. A single user is, by definition... a single person. This person will probably, sooner or later, for better or for worse, get married, that is to say be "connected". It's practically unavoidable. Forget about safety and tranquility.

In spite of the danger, communicating with other machines is a fascinating experience. It's the future of computing anyway. Computer users have accumulated an incredible wealth of data over the past few years. Having the possibility to access such data and sharing it (international data banks for instance) is a priceless privilege and an extremely powerful work tool.

Two PC users equipped with Modems can send each other programmes, data, letters, drawings, files via their home telephone lines, whatever the distance. Simply put, a Modem makes your PC a super facsimile machine. Actually it's much more than that.

Computer hackers — those talented youngsters who try to gain unauthorized access to data —, viruses and other negative elements, won't and can't stop the already widespread usage of computer communications and connectivity. Just as true as aircraft accidents never prevented any passenger from traveling by air.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

AMAZING FACTS

— In the past pirates and sailors used to leave goats to graze on uninhabited grounds so as to benefit from them on their return.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

— A German trained his tame dog to fly a plane. The dog could perfectly master this art.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

— Nero, the Roman emperor, used a magnifying lens fixed on a ring gilded with precious stones.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

— Experts can identify the atmospheric conditions of the past seventy-million years by examining the dusts carried by storms and deposited in the depths of seas and oceans.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

SAY IT IN ARABIC

Common phrases

— Who is this man? Meen hadal rijjal?
— What does he want? Eish biddon?
— Where did he come from? Aja min fain?
— What is he talking about? Eish bi-yehki? Shoo bitkallam?
— I can't understand what he says. Moosh fahem eish bi-yehki.
— Does he speak Spanish or German? Howwa bitkallam Spani willa Alman?
— What is his name? Shoo isma?
— He seems to be a stranger. Bayen alaah rijjal ghareeb.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

COOKING IS FUN

COFFEE PASTRY

INGREDIENTS

— 3 eggs
— ½ cup sugar
— ¾ cup flour
— 1 tsp camp coffee

METHOD

1. Beat eggs and sugar in a bowl over a pan of hot water until it becomes frothy.
2. Mix sifted flour lightly and dust baking tray with flour.
3. Bake it in moderate oven (350 F) until inserted wooden pick comes out smoothly.
4. Cool and cut it into one layer. Spread butter icing.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. When was the Red Cross first formed?
2. What is the first name of the continent of America?
3. Name THREE persons who declined the Nobel Prize.
4. Who was the first recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize?
5. What is the female offspring of a mule called?
6. Who are popularly referred to as G Men?
7. Name the national flower of Pakistan.
8. In which cities will you find the following streets:
a- Kurfur
b- the Love
c- Ponte L'Alto?

PARTY GAMES

TEN-UP

Players sit in a circle. The player chosen to start says: "One onion". Everybody in turn repeats this. When the turn of the leader comes again he says: "One onion and two tomatoes." Everybody in turn repeats this. The list of items is gradually increased and any player making a mistake or forgetting an item is eliminated.

Here are some suggested phrases, which may, of course, be changed at will:

One onion, two tomatoes, three thirsty thrushes, four fat fried fish, five famous film stars, six sizzling sausages, seven satisfied sailors, eight energetic elephants, nine nasty nitwits, ten tasty tadpoles.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

ABROAD: (Dreamer going or gone) An early journey. ACCIDENT: (Being the victim of one) Business deal impending requires great caution.

ANCHOR: A voyage across the sea: (in water) a disappointment; (if a girl dreams) a sailor will fall in love with her.

ANGER: To dream of being angry with anyone mean that that person is a true friend.

ANIMALS: As a rule, luck! (domestic animals) speedy return of absent friends, family reconciliation: (Wild animals) secret enemies.

APPLES: (Long life): (To a woman) many years and many children.

ARROW: A letter has been written which will cause regret.

AXE: A way will present itself soon to attain a much desired end.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PUZZLES

"Spelling errors"

(A) A youngster who was not known for his good spelling spent a summer at camp and occasionally wrote home.

How many errors can you find?

Deer Mom and Dad;

It's raining. Haveing nothing else to do I'm writhing to let you no I am O.K. Yesterday we went on a picknick. It was fun. We went swiming in a lake. Sum of us came out with leaches on us. Yuk! The counsellors helped pull them off. Then we played games. I wun. There is a nice shoot here in the lake, so we cood slide down into the water. I cood use sum more allowence and cookys.

Your sun,
Hal.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

(B) Spot the stranger

Cross out the one in each group that does not belong with the other four.

- (1) Emily Dickinson
Edna St. Vincent Millay
Walt Whitman
Edgar Allan Poe
James Fenimore Cooper

- (2) Bartered Bride
Barber of Seville
Aida
Merry Widow
Mikado

- (3) Renoir
Degas
Hals
Watteau
Monet



The reincarnation of Paul

By E. Yaghi

Until you try, you don't know what you can't do —
Henry James

AMMAN — Can ice be hot? Is there beauty in death? Yes, it was possible, Emily thought. When her brother died in a car accident in the winter snows of America, the pain of his loss tore through her like a jagged dagger, hence, hot ice. And yes too, although his death was cruel and sudden, it was immediate, culminating in an everlasting sleep and peace which did make it beautiful in its own peculiar way.

Paul had a son, so did the father live through him? Time would tell for this American son was coming to visit his Aunt Emily, also American, and her Jordanian husband and children. A few days before his arrival, Emily's family all sat in the salon discussing the upcoming event. She said with a sigh: "Sometimes I regret the fact that when my brother Paul died, I did not go to America and try to take his son away from his mother and bring him back here with me."

"You know that was not at all feasible," her husband replied. "His mother would never have given him up even though I would have been happy to have him."

"I know you're right but I always feel guilty for not trying though I realise that even then it would have been difficult for my nephew to adjust to our way of life."

He looked convincing when he stated assertively: "You know it would have been impossible, not just difficult. The boy never could have accepted how we live. What time does his flight arrive?"

We phoned the airline and they told us at 6:30 p.m. Are you and the kids going to meet him at the airport?"

"Of course," he answered. I wouldn't miss being there for anything in the world, besides, he needs us there to greet him."

She could taste the excitement. Anticipation was sweet.

And now she would mother him and try to make up for all those years Paul Jr. had lived without a father, imprisoned in a military institution for truant boys. He never learned to get along with his mother for he blamed her for divorcing his father and destroying him. Emily remembered how many times she had learned of his father contemplating suicide. Everything he had lived and worked for were gone, his wife, his son and even his home had been part of the divorce bargain ceded to his former wife. His whole life had been swallowed up in smoke and nothing but ashes was left.

Emily remembered how her own mother had written her saying how Paul Jr. had given his mother such a hard time after the divorce that even though she had won custody of him, she finally phoned her former husband and insisted: "Come and take the boy! I can't handle him!"

So he did. He went to retrieve his son and at least had a companion in misery. But he had confessed to his sister that he never felt adequate as a single parent or that he was enough to fill the boy's life. "He needs a mother," he kept saying.

And as she sat on the sofa she said aside to herself: "Oh, how many letters of encouragement I wrote to my brother trying to soothe his fits of deep depression."

And trying to soothe his fits of deep depression. And then when he finally decided he had something to live for, his life was taken and he died after all. "And then she began talking to the deceased as if he were sitting next to her. "Oh Chiquitita, when you left me, I needed your strength, your shoulder to cry on, but you weren't there. You deserted me! I felt a part of me died that day. Nothing could ease the agony of that terrible phone call from mom telling me you were gone. I remember my own small children crowding around me not understanding what was

hurting me. When I gathered them in my arms like a mother hen and kissed them and my tears fell on their downy heads, they didn't know what death was. They were too young. And when my husband's relatives came to pay their condolences, they expected fruit and tea as if they sat at a social gathering and regarding your life as unimportant because they did not know you and therefore considered you irrelevant. But you meant the world to me. So, my life went on, when I felt it should have ended too and in a way, part of it did and my walls came crumbling down around me like thunder. Can thunder be sweet? Is there concord in discord? The future will show."

A few evenings later, Emily's children and husband went to meet Paul Jr. and then around ten that night, a tall bronze young man in his early twenties, ascended the stairs of her home and when he neared the top, stopped and said with a shy smile while holding out his hand, "Hello, Aunt. How are you?"

She grabbed him, hugged him and said breathlessly: "Oh, Paul, I will make up everything to you!"

When he entered the parlour and put his suitcases down, she stared at him. Yes, she thought, he had his father's eyes but his mouth was his mother's. He still had the light brown hair she had seen in pictures of him which he wore long. She couldn't take her sight off her nephew as if she were hypnotised.

But many days later when the newness began to wear away, his restless spirit began to show. One day after lunch he concluded to his aunt: "There are too many poor people here. I never want to be like them!"

Emily knew he had inherited his father's estate and that money must mean a lot to him but he just needed some guidance, she reflected and out loud she answered assuringly: "Just because you see someone poor doesn't mean you will contact the ailment. Affluency isn't as widespread here as in America but conditions are much better than before."

He didn't appear interested or convinced. Emily felt he was unnecessarily selfish. He failed to show compassion for anyone, even her. Was she partly to blame for that? When she had mentioned how she had wanted to take him after his father's death, he retorted: "I wish you had. I was waiting for you to come! Mom didn't know how to deal with me so she put me in a military school. I tried to run away so many times but she forced me to go back."

Guilt crept up her spine and her face flushed with regret. "Oh, Paul, I'm so sorry!" and she kissed his cheek but he remained motionless.

Paul didn't care anymore. He had become hardened and thought only of himself. He had indulged himself for too long. Later, she discovered he lied too. He pretended he didn't have money so Emily's husband would spend on him and then he would go and throw his own money around on alcohol and rented cars which he wrecked. He started staying out late at night and Emily began to feel uncomfortable when her husband demanded: "Where's Paul? Hasn't he come home yet? What's he up to now? This boy is going to get in trouble and end up in jail. I think he's on drugs. He certainly can't be considered a good influence for our children!"

In spite of Emily's initial intentions and feelings of remorse, young Paul's visit was not successful. She had wanted to be his mother and hold him in her heart, but he had become an alien. When at last his visit came to an end all she could think was, "Thank God, he's gone! What a relief! I was so worried that he would cause more problems than he did. When he first arrived, I saw something of my brother in him, but only in looks, for he is made of stone and he learned to think of no one but himself." And then for the last time, she spoke to her dead brother: "No, Paul, I searched for you in your son, but you weren't there! Now I know that there is no such thing as reincarnation and no one can ever replace you!"

JTV CHANNEL 2

WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, July 15

8:30 Too Close For Comfort

Jane finds herself unable to pay her share of the rent and starts looking for a job. When she finds one, it turns out not to her father's expectations.

9:10 Quantum Leap

Sam leaps back into time to find himself in the place of a theatre actor.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — No Mercy

Starring: Kim Basinger, William Atherton and George Dzundza

Friday, July 16

8:30 Head Of The Class

Back To The Future

The class, with the help of Mr. Moore, imagine what they will be 20 years later.

9:10 Reasonable Doubts

Making Dirt Stick

10:00 News In English

10:20 Echoes

Saturday, July 17

8:30 Super Bloopers and New Practical Jokes.

9:00 Perspective

9:30 Varieties

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Back-lash.

Starring: Richard Widmark and Donna Reed

Jim Slater, a cowboy, is trying to find out who killed his father and stole \$60,000 from him. Accompanying him is Carroll Orney who is looking for gold.

Sunday, July 18

8:30 Step By Step

The kids promise their neighbours to take care of their dog while they are away.

9:10 Documentary — The Trials Of Life

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Mini-Series

Monday, July 19

8:30 Golden Girls

Kay's ten year marriage to Michael is far from a happy one. So when, after yet another fight, Kay disappears, Michael, the police and most of her friends conclude that she has left him. She has in fact been abducted by Donny, a social misfit who was once in Kay's class and who has convinced himself that Kay will marry him.

Wednesday, July 21

8:30 Night Court

In this episode a retarded guy who carries a gun inside the court, takes the Judge's Assistant hostage.

9:10 The Story Of Hollywood.

The documentary talks about the relationship between the very famous actors in Hollywood and their producers, and how they had to abide by the rules and the regulations the government put.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Mini-Series — "Harry's Game"

Harry decides to carry on his mission and at the same time the IRA in Ireland assigns Billy boy to kill the British chief of the investigators in Ireland.

Rose falls in love with Miles and he gives her a ring. Rose gets excited and shows the ring to Dorothy, Blanche and Sophia. Sophia does not like the idea and tries all her best to spoil this relation.

9:10 Thirty Something

10:00 News In English

10:20 Street Justice

Cougar finishes his stay in jail and wants his daughter, who was adopted by a very nice family, to return to him.

Tuesday, July 20

8:30 The Detectives

Teed Off

Louie and David are two private investigators. Both are naive. In this episode they are assigned to follow someone who sells arms.

9:00 Faces And Places

A Kind Of Magic

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — "For Better — And For Worse"

Starring: Kate Nelligan and Jennifer Beals

Stallone hits new peaks in Cliffhanger

By Robert Shelton

LONDON — It's difficult to think of the commanding Hollywood superstar Sylvester Stallone as a loser, even temporarily. Yet his last two films were box-office flops that left audiences and reviewers cold.

Now, the creator of Rocky and Rambo is on the comeback trail, reaching new heights as a mountain rescue hero in *Cliffhanger*. The film, already a runaway hit in America, opened in Britain on June 25 and stands poised to be his biggest-earning film in years.

"I'd made a couple of comedies that didn't ring my bell," the muscular actor said in a recent interview. "I decided I was really a niche performer who needed another big action film to ring the bells at the box office, the way that the comedies *Oscar* and *Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot* didn't."

Stallone says he started looking around for the right script. "We took a look at *Gale Force*, about a hurricane, and *Kenny Harlin* — the director — and I decided it wasn't right. God knows, I've played enough cops in my time, so I didn't want to do that again. I wanted to use elements never done visually on this magnitude before, so we were quite excited about the

Cliffhanger idea."

In the film, Stallone plays a mountain rescue man who has quit after a tragedy. He is persuaded to help in the chase for arch-villain John Lithgow, whose team has hijacked a cargo of \$100 million in mid-air and plans to pick up the loot high in the Rocky Mountains. It was decided that the Rockies weren't photogenic enough, so shooting took place in the Dolomites, the Italian Alps, with studio work at Cinecittà, near Rome.

The film generates vertigo in viewers — you feel as if you are right on the edge of a dangerous precipice. Harlin, the Finnish-born director of *Die Hard 2*, and Stallone collaborated to give the feeling of danger that is sweaty-handed realistic. Curiously, Stallone says he's afraid of heights, but this man lives on challenges.

"When I'm afraid of something, that usually means a good omen for me," Stallone explained. "When I hate something, like heights, it means I'm afraid of it. In this case, I turned the fear and hatred into an unusual challenge." At first, he says, he tended to hang back from the edge of snowy cliffs. As his confidence grew during the shoot, he got so he could eat his lunch with his feet danc-

ling right over a ledge.

"Challenges make me work harder," the actor/director/writer explained. "They say that climbers have a death wish and are turned on by the dangers. You get seduced by the dangers." And for all the precautions that were taken, you always had to remember that hard rock can snap a safety cable as if it were rope, not steel, he noted.

After cataloguing the physical dangers of making *Cliffhanger*, he reported hurting himself in a runaway car in *Demolition Man*. "I was also badly hurt in *Rocky II* and needed a lot of stitches to recover from that." Although he looks indestructible, Stallone says there is a high price involved in the high earnings of an action hero. "My arm turned a beautiful shade of Wedgewood Blue, and I became a sort of technicolour brother. I was in danger of losing a rib. So I said to myself, 'I am not Adam' — and began intensive self-treatment to get myself back in shape."

Stallone is a bundle of fascinating contradictions. The power of his five Rocky and three Rambo films is such that you tend to think of him as an inarticulate grunter, more physical than mental. Certainly, his street speech doesn't proclaim an intellec-



Sylvester Stallone's biggest hurdle in his new film *Cliffhanger* was overcoming his fear of heights

tual. But he's widely read and tuned in. His script for the life of poet Edgar Allan Poe may yet star Daniel Day-Lewis. He talks of Rocky as a figure of "redemption" and loves a joke to keep his col-

leagues in good spirits, despite his unsuccessful comedies on screen.

The last thing you would assume of him is that he's a fine writer. He even denies the pivotal part he played in revising the *Cliffhanger* script to make it work as well as it does. "The truth of it is that I never asked for the writing credit. The script we had lacked character delineation. We were eight days from the end of shooting, and we had run through four of five teams of writers. Three days later, we had a script we could use. The last thing I want to do is write. If asked to write, I'll generally say no."

He had created the character of prize-fighter Rocky Balboa nearly 20 years ago, and several producers wanted to buy his script as a vehicle for a name star. Stallone said no to that, too, because he was determined to play the role and direct his own story. In 1976, Rocky won the Best Picture Oscar, and he wrote and starred in the four sequels and directed all but Rocky V.

Stallone knows all about competition, but he seems to be hearing the sound of a distant drummer in deciding his next career moves. He's already made the action film *Demolition Man* and will play the comic-book hero

Judge Dread next.

The actor thinks the action thriller film is changing its shape but retaining its essential thrust. Responding to criticism on the blood and gore that make up his action movies, he explained: "My films in the 1980s are walks in the park compared to some of the violent films of the 1990s. I don't want to cast any aspersions, but some of these recent films are really beyond violence. They are a lot worse than Rambo."

The trend that Stallone sees now is that the film violence will be diluted with a bit of humour, to stress entertainment values. With a dry cackle to underscore his words, he says he has to laugh at the idea of family films dominating Hollywood output of the future. "What are we going to have? Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer holding a machinegun? Or the Seven Dwarfs Rob a Bank? No, there will always be heavy-action films. They are part of the lore of the cinema."

He doubts that another Rambo film about the Vietnam War will be made. "Rambo is a character," he joked. "If it isn't made in a year, it won't ever be made." But he notes that some European investors are keener on a sequel to the series than he is.

Stallone gives a lot of thought to roles he would like to play. "I suppose I would really like to find a script that makes me an ambiguous villain. Not like Henry: Portrait Of A Serial Killer. That's too close to home for me. I would like to play a character who's really dastardly — like one of our former presidents," he said, naming no names.

The actor was born in New York but began acting in the suburbs of Philadelphia. He was also a young star football player. After two years of teaching at the American College in Geneva, he studied drama at the University of Miami and started to write. He broke into films in 1974 in a small role in *The Lords Of Flatbush*, a film for which he was also credited with writing "additional dialogue."

Stallone was passing through London to launch the latest opening of the burger-bar Planet Hollywood chain in Soho. He and his partners — Bruce Willis and Arnold Schwarzenegger — lend their powerful publicity muscle to the enterprise for a slice of the profits. Inevitably, fans will watch the varying fortunes of the three superstars as Arnold surges in popularity and Bruce is offered \$20 million to do a third *Die Hard* film — World News Link.

By Matt Spetalnick

Reuter

LOS ANGELES — He has become the world's biggest box-office star playing tight-lipped loners who let their guns do their talking.

But now, after riding away with a fistful of Oscars at this year's Academy Awards, Clint Eastwood is ready to shed his tough-guy image and prove that even *Dirty Harry* can tug at an audience's heartstrings.

For perhaps the first time in his career, the 63-year-old movie icon cries openly on screen in his new thriller *In The Line Of Fire*, in which he plays an ageing secret service agent still haunted by the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

German Director Wolfgang Petersen, best known for the critically acclaimed film *Das Boot*, declares it "one of those magic moments" in movie history. "You have never seen something like that in a Clint Eastwood movie, never ever in 30

years," he said proudly.

For his part, Eastwood — who first won fame as a lean, stone-faced cowboy in films such as *Hang 'Em High* and *High Plains Drifter* — doesn't think shedding a few tears will do his image any harm.

"I'm playing vulnerability," he said drolly in a recent interview. "I've never been against that."

The film marks Eastwood's first acting role since Hollywood made his day at the Academy Awards, honouring him with two Oscars — his first ever — for directing and producing the revisionist western *Unforgiven*.

But *In The Line Of Fire*, a \$40 million Columbia Pictures release, boasts another distinction as well.

It is the first major film produced with the full cooperation of the secret service, the normally reclusive agency charged with protecting the

Dirty Harry in tears? Clint sheds flinty image



Clint Eastwood in the film *Unforgiven*

U.S. president and his family.

"That mentality that you take the bullet for somebody you might not even respect... is very hard to understand but at the same time admirable," Eastwood said via satellite linkup from Austin, Texas, where he is filming on location.

In *The Line Of Fire* flashes back to the darkest hour in secret service history, Kennedy's 1963 assassination in Dallas.

It was a blow from which several agents assigned to Kennedy never recovered. They quit, turned alcoholic or were left emotionally scarred.

Eastwood's character, Frank Horrigan, is modelled after one such agent. He is overwhelmed with guilt, wondering if he could have

thrown himself in front of the president and saved him.

Thirty years later, Horrigan must match wits with a would-be presidential assassin (played by John Malkovich) who taunts him about his past.

Eastwood said he researched the role by watching secret service training films and talking to agents he had met over the years.

The casting of Eastwood flattered the agency. With its stamp of approval, filmmakers were allowed to shoot key scenes at Secret Service Headquarters. A retired senior agent was hired as a technical adviser.

In *The Line Of Fire* gives Eastwood fans what they've come to expect from Hollywood's biggest box-office draw — shootouts and chase scenes. But unlike most of Eastwood's past heroes, Horrigan is also a loser of sorts, a brooding alcoholic living an

empty life.

The unexpected happens when Horrigan is suddenly overcome with emotion while recounting his past failure to fellow agent Lilly Raines, played by former model Rene Russo.

What got the tears flowing, Petersen said, was his secret instruction to Russo to squeeze Eastwood's hand after his emotional confession. "Clint was really overwhelmed," he said.

Malkovich predicted that Eastwood's performance would only enhance his mythic image.

"He is American in a way that we are and a way that we wish we could be," he said philosophically. "There are quite a lot of Americans who are capable of treating you justly and fairly, but if you don't respond in kind, they are capable of shooting you." Executives at Columbia

Pictures believe they have a sure-fire hit on their hands. The studio is desperate to cut its losses from Arnold Schwarzenegger's mega-budget flop, *Last Action Hero*.

Eastwood, once dismissed by critics as little more than a B-movie cowboy, feels vindicated by his Oscars but is, trying to keep it all in perspective. "I think that you have to put that all behind you and say 'that's wonderful, that was a great moment in time and now let's go on,'" he said.

Changes also lie ahead in his personal life. He and 41-year-old actress Frances Fisher, his long-time companion, are expecting a baby in early September. He is already the father of two adult children.

Eastwood is making his return to directing with *A Perfect World*, in which he stars as a Texas lawman in the 1960s hunting down an escaped convict played by Kevin Costner.

By Steve James

Reuter

TEANECK, New Jersey — For a man who creates some of the most harmonious sounds in jazz, Milt Jackson sometimes gives off some discordant vibes.

Not content to rest on the considerable laurels of a 40-year career with the Modern Jazz Quartet, Jackson appears to be on a crusade to rescue jazz in America.

The 70-year-old vibraphonist takes aim at an entertainment industry he says is riddled with prejudice and suppresses his beloved music in the country of its birth.

Jazz has lost some of its biggest names in recent years — Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, Stan Getz, Sarah Vaughan — and in a poor

state, he says.

It just doesn't get the air-play or respect it deserves. Americans do not appreciate it as a cultural art form and as a result, young black musicians are being discouraged from playing jazz, Jackson believes.

"Racism is definitely involved but they don't like to talk about it," he told Reuters at his home in the suburbs outside New York City.

"Sure there have been great white (jazz) musicians... but that's not what I'm talking about. The reason it was suppressed first is because it was black," said Jackson, for four decades the creative force of the Modern Jazz Quartet alongside pianist

John Lewis.

"Many of the young people have been discouraged because they see the rock people make so much more money."

"They think that jazz is not a cultural art and they've been made to believe it by what the media has told them and showed them," said the perennial winner of the Annual Down Beat Magazine Award for best vibraphonist.

"You don't have any black jazz programmes on television, they've always told them it's not entertaining. So they're not going by what they hear, but by what they're gonna see. And what they see is someone jumping

up and acting crazy.

"If you play jazz the way we play, you don't have the time or the energy to be jumping up and down acting the fool," said the man of which the *Los Angeles Times* newspaper once said, "hearing Milt Jackson perform must be a bit like watching Picasso paint."

Acting the fool is the last thing one expects from a man whose smooth vib sounds defined the Modern Jazz Quartet (MJQ), which more than any other group succeeded in bringing jazz out of the gin joints and smoke-filled dives into the concert halls of the world.

Coming off a mini-tour of the United States with the

MJQ, Jackson spoke of his new solo album, *Reverence And Compassion* in which his muted hammer-tongue is augmented with lush strings. Some critics are already suggesting it could earn Jackson his second Grammy Award. (He won his first in 1969 for *That's The Way It Is*).

"My sole concentration at the moment is playing this kind of stuff with the small group and the strings," he said, before dropping a mini-bombshell for fans who place the MJQ in the forefront of the Bebop movement.

"I don't want to badmouth anyone, but I've never been crazy about playing Bebop," he whispered. "That's not my background. Bebop was more

the MJQ and was Lewis' influence."

The MJQ is due to release a new album in the autumn which includes collaborations with Aretha Franklin, Freddie Hubbard, Bobby McFerrin and Branford and Wynton Marsalis.

And the quartet will be playing two gigs in Switzerland this summer at the Montreux Jazz Festival — some where Jackson feels the music is appreciated more than in the United States.

"It's different in Europe and Japan, particularly in Japan, because of the cultural aspect. They're more deep into their culture and traditions than we are here," he said.

In America, he decries the way jazz is all but ignored by the large commercial radio and television networks and has to rely on smaller publicly funded stations for exposure.

"Don't tell me it can't be done or it can't be sponsored. It's deliberate sabotage," the mild-mannered Jackson said. He said a renowned San Francisco jazz station recently moved to new premises with a resulting weakening of its signal. "That ain't accidental, that's sabotage," he said.

"The stations are saying 'I won't back that programme. I won't back jazz.'" Even though the MJQ played last year on NBC's *Tonight Show*, the group

only got to play one of the compositions it had rehearsed, before the show resumed, he said.

"They talked to (actor) Danny Aiello... for over half an hour about nothing and you tell me that was more creative and interesting than the 41-year history of the Modern Jazz quartet?"

"This music, as opposed to fusion music, disco music, rap music, lends itself to intelligence. We educate people, that's what this music is about. They don't want that because when people become too educated, the government can't control them."

"Once we've got the power of this music, we'll be like a Martin Luther King or a Malcolm X and they couldn't control us," Jackson said.

In age of video, marionette theatre is still going strong

By Tony Smith

The Associated Press

EVORA, Portugal — Darkness, then a drumroll. A curtain the size of a hand towel rises. Local olive oil fuels the shimmering stage lights. The audience gasps as six dancing angels appear, heralding God's creation of the world.

In a world of full of Nintendo and video games, children and adults still marvel at the diminutive figures of the "Bonecos Di Santo Aleixo" marionette theatre troupe.

The rendition of the *Book of Genesis* by one guitarist and four puppeteers manipulating the rudimentary

"bonecos" — marionettes suspended on iron rods — was one of 17 productions staged recently by troupes from 10 countries at this city's third international biennale of marionettes.

And although — or maybe because — this is the age of television, soap operas and videogames, the week-long festival was a resounding success. Theatres were packed and audiences rapt.

"There's something boring about the routine of technology today, so now people are looking again at live performances," explained Jose Russo, one of Santo Aleixo's four puppeteers.

And there was plenty of

life in all the festival's performances, although most of the actors were made from wood, cork, paper or cloth.

Bulgaria's Credo Troupe staged a zany version of Nikolai Gogol's classic short story, *The Overcoat*.

Both kids and adults oohed-and-aahed as a tin soldier, a clockwork ballerina and an evil magician became embroiled in a triangle when David Syrotiak's Vermont-based National Marionette Theatre made a toy store come alive after customers left.

Peru's Hugo and Ines swathed themselves in black cloth and painted expressive faces on their bare knees and

soles of their feet to parody that most famous of puppets — Pinocchio.

"Despite the advent of cinema, soap operas and computers, marionette theatre never died, and it looks like it never will," said Russo.

But in the Alentejo, the rural region surrounding Evora, traditional puppeteering had a very close shave with death.

The traditional repertoire for Santo Aleixo's puppets had been passed down by word-of-mouth through generations of puppeteers.

That was until Antonio Talhinhas, the last puppet

master now 83 also known simply as "Mestre Talhinhas," planned to retire. He had been criss-crossing Portugal by horse and cart for 40 years, staging shows in barns where, he says, "amphitheatres would emerge from the hay."

Talhinhas agreed in 1975 to sell his marionettes to Evora's cultural centre, train a new troupe of puppeteers and help them transcribe the lyrics of Biblical themes such as *The Creation Of The World* and *The Birth Of The Baby Jesus*.

"It took us three years to save four hours of repertoire," Russo recalled. The company now is trying to get

Talhinhas to help piece together *The Passion Of Christ*, the final Biblical piece still untranscribed.

In the more rustic *Confession Of Mestre Salas*, the puppets, which are no more than one foot (30 centimetres) high on average, traditionally banter with the audience in often bawdy, local dialect.

Since 1980, Russo has been the voice and hands behind Mestre Salas, a character who appears in all Santo Aleixo plays and is based on the typical Alentejo village "Festeiro" — a worldly, sly, but good-at-heart party tiger.

Salas, with his entourage of female "cousins," is the per-

fect foil for priest Padre Antonio in the tales of village goings-on and fisticuffs that rival Italian author Giovanni Guareschi's *Don Camillo and Peppone* and England's favourite puppets, *Punch and Judy*.

"This is adult theatre," said puppeteer David Syrotiak, of Brattleboro, Vt. "In the United States, people say 'puppets? That's for kids' but when they see a performance, they get transported into another world."

Syrotiak's sons, David, 27, and Peter, 25, grew up with their father's puppets and now pull the strings when staging Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, *Macbeth* and *Pinocchio*.

or Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

"The art is to give life to an inanimate object, give it personality with your bare hands," said son David.

"Puppet theatre can be something as simple as a teacup talking to a saucer."

"The motto is, if human actors can do it better, then leave it alone, but for fantasy you can't beat puppets," said Peter.

"If you want a character to fly apart on stage, you can make him do it," he said. "Can you imagine my favourite character? — a four-headed monster singing a barbershop quartet."

Expensively educated doctors don't always deliver

By Kevin Aliro
and Kalpana Sharma

KAMPALA — Dr. George Iasseme graduated from Uganda's Makerere University in 1988, but has since left for the United States. "I've Uganda," he says, "but I can't eat patriotism. I just go where they can pay."

Between 1971 and 1987, he brain drain robbed Uganda of 1,500 doctors which it paid so much to train — almost twice as many as are now practising in the country.

Salaries in the Uganda health service are low, and since the most recent cuts in public spending dictated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), in some places they are not being paid at all.

As the World Health Organisation's year 2000 target of 'Health For All' approaches, critics in many countries are suggesting that training doctors who are unlikely ever to work in a nation's health service is a waste of precious resources. And they say that the potential of nurses and community workers to improve health through education and preventive work is being neglected.

The situation is getting worse in many Third World countries, as IMF-imposed spending cuts cause dramatic deterioration in public health services as well as a haemorrhage of medical staff to the private sector or better-paid jobs overseas.

In India, the government subsidises education in most of the 138 recognised medical colleges, but most graduates enter the private sector or emigrate. Dr. Sanjay Nagral, a recent graduate of a government college, says most of his classmates looked for higher-paying private-sector jobs. And those who attended private colleges also seek such jobs to repay hefty loans.

Education in medical colleges is oriented towards high-tech hospital medicine, rather than primary health care. Dr. Arun Bal of the Association for Consumer Action on Safety and Health says colleges "are turning out super-specialists, when we actually need many more general practitioners."

Dr. N. H. Antia, of the Foundation for Research in Community Health, agrees. "The education doctors receive only prepares them for the private sector. They are culturally alienated from rural areas and so dependent on high technology they would never be able to work in our ill-equipped primary health care centres."

The high-tech, for-profit orientation of many Indian doctors is leading to an astonishing boom in medical technology. India's medical electronics industry grew more than tenfold between 1972 and 1986, when it was worth \$10 million.

But the most expensive equipment is imported, often without duty having to be paid, thanks to the "trust" status of hospitals and economic liberalisation measures. Bombay has seven magnetic resonance scanners, each costing more than \$2 million. To recover the cost, private hospitals promote expensive tests using this machinery.

This trend is altering the public perception of health care, with quality being seen as synonymous with high-tech. Yet most health care reports, anywhere in the world, recommend more emphasis on health education and primary care — community-level clinics providing basic services — than on high-tech machines and doctors. The Alma Ata declaration, for instance, promoted by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and signed in 1978, called for safe water, sanitation and primary health care to be available to all by the year 2000. But despite the wide adoption of these aims, primary and preventive care seldom command their share of available resources.

Uganda has, in theory, one doctor for 30,000 people, but almost all of them work

around the capital, so the ratio in rural areas might only be 1:80,000. It also has a child immunisation programme, founded by UNICEF, but no comprehensive preventive health programme.

Many health workers are well aware of the importance of basic health and hygiene advice, but are unable to get out to rural areas to help. Nurse Helen Okia from Paida Health Centre in the rural district of Nebbi bemoans the prevalence of preventable diseases.

"Some of these are spread by poor sanitation and ignorance," she says. "And we have malnutrition that could be avoided. Some mothers still beat their children for eating fruit."

Intestinal worms and bilharzia are spread when hu-

man faeces contaminate living areas or drinking water. And plague is spread by rats, whose population booms if cereals are stored where the rodents can get at them. Nurse Okia and her colleagues know all these things could be tackled, but they lack even bicycles for transport.

Primary health care is not even on the curriculum in nursing and midwifery schools, so some health workers do not know what it is, believing it begins and ends with child immunisation.

In India, greater priority is attached to preventive health care, and the government has set compulsory targets. But the workers who are supposed to achieve a certain number of immunisations,

provide antenatal care and find candidates for sterilisation are also struggling to run the curative health service. Many do not have the time to do both, so simple ailments go untreated.

Another concern is that many of the preventive projects are sponsored by overseas governments or aid organisations, who tend to set the priorities. Dr. Antia is one critic of this arrangement. He points out that the national programme against tuberculosis (TB) has just been cut back, although the country has nine million TB sufferers and 400,000 TB deaths a year. "In contrast, AIDS affects only a few thousand people, yet more money is coming in from overseas for AIDS control than for TB," he says — Panos features.

Vitamin A slows slide towards blindness for inherited disorder

By Paul Rees
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Large daily doses of Vitamin A can slow the slide toward blindness for patients with Retinitis Pigmentosa and may save ears of eyesight for people with the inherited affliction, a new study indicates.

Dr. Eliot L. Berson, a Harvard Medical School researcher, said a dietary study of 60 patients with Retinitis Pigmentosa, or RP, showed that Vitamin A therapy slowed the loss of eyesight.

He said a patient who started Vitamin A therapy at age 32 could retain vision until age 70 instead of losing it at age 63.

About 1.5 million people have the disorder worldwide. The same study also showed that large, supplemental doses of Vitamin E actually accelerate the RP disease.

Dr. Berson said. At one time, he said, it was thought that both Vitamin A and E were beneficial.

"The course of disease was slowed, on average, among adults with the common form of RP who took Vitamin A," said Dr. Berson in an interview. "There was a suggestion of a more rapid rate of decline among those taking 400 international units of Vitamin E."

A report on the study was published in the Archives of Ophthalmology.

Achieving the beneficial effect requires daily doses of 15,000 international units, or IU, of Vitamin A. Dr. Berson said only Vitamin A derived from Palmitate was proven in the study to be beneficial. He said Beta-carotene, a Vitamin A precursor, does not have the same predictable effect.

Vitamin E supplements of 400 international units appeared to speed up RP disease, Dr. Berson said, while levels of about three international units daily had no detectable effect on the disease. The therapy would require Vitamin pills, he said.

The researcher emphasised that all patients should consult with their doctors before starting the Vitamin supplements.

Vitamin therapy may not be advisable for some patients, such as pregnant women or those with liver disease, he said.

Dr. Berson said the treatment does not cure RP. The hallmark of RP — destruction of cells in the retina — continues, but at a slower rate. The net effect, is that patients will become blind later.

RP is actually a group of disorders of the retina, a pap-

er thin tissue at the back of the eye ball where light from the eye lens is directed. The disease leads to the progressive destruction of cells, called rods and cones, that detect light and send signals up the retinal nerve to the brain.

RP generally can be diagnosed in people by age 18. It first leads to a loss of normal nighttime vision, followed by the gradual progression to tunnel vision by the age of 40 or so. Remaining sight may be gone one to two decades later. There currently is no cure.

The National Retinitis Pigmentosa Foundation in Baltimore called the Vitamin A therapy "the first useful treatment that may help prolong vision for RP patients. The organisation has started a national education programme on the Vitamin therapy."

Scientists solve mystery of how flu virus works

By Jim Fuller

WASHINGTON — Scientists have identified a spring-like mechanism used by the flu virus to break into human cells, solving a long-standing mystery and providing a model that could help in the design of new antiviral drugs.

A report in the journal Cell said that the same mechanism may be used by many different viruses to cause infection, including the virus that causes AIDS. It may also be involved in common cellular processes such as the movement of chemical signals, called neurotransmitters, that carry information from one nerve cell to another in the brain.

Dr. Peter Kim, a researcher at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and a co-author of the report, said that the process by which the flu virus fuses with human cell membranes has been a mystery for more than two decades. Infection by the flu virus essentially does not begin until the viral membrane fuses with and opens the cell membrane, spilling its contents into the body of the cell.

Dr. Kim said that the invasion process begins when the viral membrane, which surrounds the central core of the virus, binds to the surface of

the cell membrane. This causes the cell membrane to fold inward into a small bubble that seals it off. As a result, the virus is trapped inside a cell whose outer membrane remains intact, preventing the virus from dumping its genes inside the cell.

Scientists have known since 1985 that a protein molecule inside the viral membrane, called hemagglutinin, is used to fuse with the cell's bubble membrane. What has puzzled researchers until now is the fact that the membrane-fusing part of the viral protein molecule, called a fusion peptide, was not on the outside of the molecule, where it could act on the cell membrane, but buried deep inside of the molecule.

Dr. Kim said that, conceptually, understanding fusion was like trying to imagine plugging in a floor lamp with a short cord when the electrical outlet was in the ceiling.

Dr. Kim and researcher Chavala Carr, a postdoctoral student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, solved the problem by developing a novel model for membrane fusion based on a spring-loaded mechanism that launches the fusion peptide to the surface of the virus, where it can fuse with

and open up the cell's bubble membrane.

The researchers began by looking at the pattern of amino acids that make up part of the protein linking the fusion peptide to the rest of the hemagglutinin molecule. These patterns provided clues about the three-dimensional structure of the molecule. The observations and subsequent experiments led to the development of the model for membrane fusion in the flu virus.

"The piece of the hemagglutinin molecule that carries the fusion peptide is like a bent (coiled) spring — as you'd expect with a mechanical spring, tension causes the middle of the spring to uncoil," Dr. Kim said. "Two forces seem to hold the spring in the bent position: The fusion peptide itself, which acts as a hook at one end of the spring, and another subunit of the molecule that acts as a clamp."

Dr. Kim and Dr. Carr found that when the fluid inside the cell's bubble membrane increases in acidity, which usually happens with newly formed bubbles, a change occurs that releases both the "hook" and the "clamp" inside the viral protein molecule.

"We've shown that the spring straightens out, allow-

ing the fusion peptide to bury itself in the membrane of the endosome (bubble)," Dr. Kim said. "This mediates fusion."

"We believe that many different viruses may use the spring-loaded mechanism to initiate fusion," Dr. Carr said, including the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes AIDS.

The researchers reported that the protein coat of HIV is made up of two pieces called GP41 and GP120. Analysis of GP41 reveals an amino acid sequence that has striking similarities to the spring-like region inside the hemagglutinin protein molecule of the flu virus. Similarly, GP120 may be analogous to the spring-loaded portion of hemagglutinin in the coiled position until the appropriate time for membrane fusion.

Dr. Kim and Dr. Carr said that their model could help in the design of new drugs. With regard to the flu virus, for example, they said therapeutic agents might be designed to prevent activation of the fusion peptide's spring-like mechanism when the fluid in the bubble becomes acidic. Another possibility would be to design agents that cause the spring-like mechanism to activate prematurely — USA.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

ALIMENTAL
By Marian A. Baran

ACROSS
1 Reason d'—
5 Explosive nose
9 In front
14 Cloud prels
15 Broomless
20 Kneel
21 Taper
22 — and hungry
23 Humiliation
25 Tall, shaggy guys
27 Baltimore affiliate
28 Be silent, in music
30 Implement
31 Use the slopes
34 Old Red
35 Fooking
36 Founders' abbr.
41 Cloth dealer
43 Dog for gold

DOWN
1 Harpist, love
2 — de force
3 Branches
4 Push aside
5 Caravan photo
6 Back talk
7 Came down
8 Police request
9 Balance sheet
10 Mexican dish
11 Continent, abbr.
12 — were tie to
13 Mean exploit
14 Wire
15 — de France
16 Motive
17 Invis
18 Type of lock
19 Camel lion
20 Burnmark or
Preminger

45 Snicker—
46 Hypocritical
48 Despicable
50 Nibble
52 Use a VCR
53 Church section
54 Hypersensitive
55 — and hungry
57 Fashionable
58 Begs a voyage
62 — Island, NY
64 Describing some
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66 Sea to —
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72 Monks or
Blues

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short
35 Wily—
37 Presidential
monogram
38 Major Irish
sheller
39 Used the pool
40 Cheat honcho
42 Savings items, for
plus
44 Comic Louis
45 — and hungry
46 — and hungry
47 Christmas
stocking filler
48 Author Rand
49 Conservation
study abbr.
50 Corn of Iran
51 Old-time
prospector
52 Big cat
53 Soaking wet

75 Best, in a way
76 Gen. Bradley
77 Put a curse on
78 Grant
79 — Scott section
80 Anonymous lady
81 Low commune
82 Ocean feature
87 — fall (strong west)
88 Poronous
90 —
91 Self, prof.
92 Mod sofly
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94 Blinded
95 Relationship of a
96 Bonny hat
97 Church fin
98 — (leopard)
101 Outcome

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187 — acetate (a
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188 Attention-getters
189 Baffling cheer
190 Desert stoover
191 Engaged one
192 House tanning
shaded
193 Caran lighter's
owner
194 —
195 Mountain chap
196 Memory gain
197 River in
Italy
198 Sane bank acts
199 Comes close
200 Sends forth
201 Leader
202 First or second

1. Happy chef cooked up plenty stacks of pancakes for church dinner.
2. Venerated pole vaulter has put his old broken vaulting in bank vault.
3. Game plan places poorest hitter as ninth batter up; eighth is not much better.
4. Effusive horticultural critic refers to one vivid rhododendron display as a "rhaphody."

CRYPTOGRAMS
1. MANAHOEYR HEAVAD LYPNTM VTEM
BYAD POPIN OAHARMZ ERRERS OMDAMLZ
MY DIET DABDESADIMYD. —By Ed Huddleson
2. HO ESZTUVZ CSIXENCKYXO XNN. OF IF CRX
CYFVNUZD FT CRX OFVZ. —By Gordon Miller
3. ZORFVUBD INVION AM DIGGORY NAT.
BOWWBU LAD LIVEZ LIFE. GOWDI
—By Barbara J. Rugg
4. Y GNAKLS JO YOOUNLGH ELJEUL PJ
SNAZY TGP TYAKY YH EUNAKLS KYUU.
—By Eugene T. Malaska

Diagramless 10 x 19, By James Barrick

ACROSS
1 Tempo
5 Rescue
9 Love god
10 Part of the eye
11 Swab
14 Female taste
16 Of the ear
18 — looked in —
19 Letters on a
unstable
20 Burnmark or
Preminger

21 Winter vehicle
22 Unproven
23 Means of
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24 Curved letter
25 Actress Arthur
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34 Kind of driver
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Diagramless 10 x 19, By James Barrick

ACROSS
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5 Rescue
9 Love god
10 Part of the eye
11 Swab
14 Female taste
16 Of the ear
18 — looked in —
19 Letters on a
unstable
20 Burnmark or
Preminger

21 Winter vehicle
22 Unproven
23 Means of
transport
24 Curved letter
25 Actress Arthur
26 Kneel
27 — hand
31 Campus out west
33 Give out cards
34 Kind of driver
36 Parish

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Bone loss found in women who breast feed more than 6 months

DETROIT (AP) — Women who breast-feed for more than six months suffer significant loss of bone calcium, but seem to begin recovering by 12 months after giving birth, according to a study.

The findings released Tuesday raise concerns about the health of teenage and poor Third World mothers, but not about adult American women, said lead researcher Maryfran R. Sowers.

"Our findings may be particularly significant for underdeveloped countries, where nutrition may be inadequate," she said. "The women in our study were very healthy and well-nourished."

The study was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Dr. Sowers, an associate professor of epidemiology at the University of Michigan's School of Public Health, said the bone densities of nursing women rose between six months and one year after they gave birth.

However, the densities didn't return to normal levels by the end of the yearlong study.

The study tracked 95 white and three Asian women, ages 20 to 40. All were healthy and had one or two children. They all ate adequate amounts of calcium.

Researchers used X-rays to test the density of the women's bones.

Two weeks after birth, there was no difference in bone density between the breast-feeding and bottle-feeding women, the study found.

After six months, the women still nursing had mineral loss at both sites. The loss averaged 5.1 per cent from the lumbar spine and 4.8 per cent from the femur.

By one year after birth, those women who had weaned their babies at nine months or earlier had regained normal bone density.

Women who nursed beyond nine months, averaged bone density loss in the femur of 3.5 per cent and average loss in the spine of 2 per cent, Dr. Sowers said.

"There was improvement but it was incomplete at this point," she said.

Dr. Sowers said the study poses few concerns for most American women because of their generally good diets, and because most women stop nursing by three months.

"What we're more concerned about is what happens in teenagers who may still have to deal with the mineralisation of their own

skeletons, and what may be the impact where the woman is malnourished," she said.

Another public health expert said the results shouldn't affect women's decisions to nurse.

"Breast feeding is very good for babies," said Dr. Judith Fortney, director of

scientific affairs for Family Health International in Research Triangle Park, N.C.

"It certainly does emphasise that breast-feeding mothers should watch their diets and take in enough cheese, milk and other sources of calcium," Dr. Fortney said.

SOLUTIONS

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- 1863.
- San Diego.
- Jean-Paul Sartre (Literature in 1964)
Boris Pasternak (Literature in 1958)
Le Duc Tho (Peace in 1973)
- Henry Dunant and Frederic Passy.
- Sorry! Mules are sterile—they bear no offspring.
- FBI agents.
- Yasmin (Chembeli).
- (a) West Berlin (formerly).
(b) Chicago.
(c) Venice.

PUZZLE

(A) Spelling errors

Deer, raining, haveing, writhing, no, picknick, swimming, sum, leaches, counsillers, wun, shoot, cood, allowance, cookys.

(B) Spot the stranger

- Croper
- Aida
- Hei-

The quest for higher education

By Sa'ad N. Mouasher

It was the second day of classes at the University of Jordan. I had missed the first day since it was the day of my arrival in Amman from Chicago. I had just completed my finals at Northwestern University in Illinois and was tired of studying and going to classes. Nevertheless, I was quite excited about arriving here, at home, and studying at the University of Jordan. I really missed studying in Arabic and I needed to further my education and mastery of the language, so I decided to take an Arabic language class at the university.

I woke up extra-early that day, anticipation and jet-lag drowning all internal supplications for rest. After breakfast came the morning shower, a brief overview of the newspaper and, finally, the twenty-minute trip to the University of Jordan.

I arrived early. It felt great to be on campus in Jordan, and I was immediately filled with a sense of pride. I'm sure many, many others have shared with me. It felt wonderful looking around the campus and seeing so many people, so many students, so many of my very own countrymen, roaming around in the pursuit of knowledge and truth. With a huge smile on my face and a great feeling inside I decided to find the lecture room and perhaps wait there until class started. I strode across the campus grounds, asking people about my assigned room written on the registration form.

I finally arrived at the classroom and, to my surprise, it was empty. I waited in the classroom for a while, assuming that maybe everyone was late that day. Everyone was late, however, and it took me half an hour to be completely convinced. I was really confused, though, because the registration form had stated clearly and legibly the building and the class number. And I was there. Surely, I thought, if there had been a change, there would have been a notice up or something.

I left the classroom and decided to ask around about any class changes that might have occurred the first day that I had missed. I reported to an office. There I encountered a quite flustered young lady who did not look up at me when I knocked at her door. After a second, louder knock, she gave me a swift look and then immediately resumed looking at her fingernails. I assumed, however, that her glance was a sufficient acceptance of my existence outside her office, so I trodded in with my

finger pointing at the registration paper.

I told her my story. She stared back coldly at me and then, with amazing indifference, responded that she knew nothing about what I was talking about. After I told her my story again and stressed the fact that she was in the position, at least I had thought, to know about these things, she responded with a different answer. This time she gave me the address of a different office and thus handed me an indirect invitation to leave her room. So I left, determined to find this simple class I was signed up for.

I reported to the second office. Here, I met a teacher in the actual department I was signed up for. I told her I had signed up for Arabic this summer and that I couldn't find my classroom. She stared at me for a while and then in some mysterious way made some connections that prompted her to ask, to my astonishment, what my mother's name was. She stood up with amazing swiftness after shouting out her question and I felt so much tension building up in the room. I quickly shouted out the answer and felt like closing our meeting with a salute. After realising, however, that her question could not possibly help her aid me in my quest, she commented that I, being a member of my family, did not need any further instruction in the Arabic language. Then, she sat down again and started chastising me for cheaply taking classes that I was surely going to do well for the purpose of acquiring higher grades. The fact that I did not study at the university and that I wasn't even taking the class for credit was never even presented to her. I decided that I had wasted enough time there that day and drove back home.

Determination was the impetus that drove me back to the university the next day. After checking the assigned classroom yet another time and "seeing" the non-existent teachers, students and books again, I decided to look around in all the other classes in that building. I knocked on a couple of doors, asked the professors for some help, and finally ended up in a classroom where the teacher smiled at my registration form and quietly admitted that I was in the right place.

I have finally found my class, I had thought, and I cheerfully took out my new notebook, sharpened pencil and all, and opened up my mind, ready for everything. The professor closed the door and very gently started lecturing. Immediately, I started taking notes, promising myself to

learn as much as I possibly can from this class. After I had learned, however, that this torpid, gentle man was in fact a history professor teaching a history class to history students, my inner rage climbed to heights that would have matched his own coolness and inner peace in effect. My frustration did not overcome my politeness, however, and I did not rush out of the classroom in mid-lecture, tearing the door from its hinges on my way out. I patiently waited, nonetheless, and learned a few racist jokes, which magazines to read and which ones to burn and trample on with my feet, how to pronounce a useless Arabic word and, amazingly enough, very little history. After class was over, I reported to the professor who, with his glasses on this time, started at my registration form again. He then informed me that I was in the wrong class with the wrong professor, taking the wrong course. I thanked him for his usefulness and headed towards... somewhere, hoping to find a simple answer for a simple question.

I asked around and was told to report to yet another office which, after a long search, I blankly trodded into. I was treated with the usual hospitality, only this time I was rudely interrupted, half-way through my extremely brief question, and was told with amazing clarity that hundreds of other students had asked her the same question. I asked whether she had thought of publishing her answer in a bulletin or something and she thought it was a great idea and ordered her secretary to do just that. Then she ordered me to report to someone else and, with a rapid wave of her hand, I was sent along with the waiter who served her tea and who was randomly chosen as a "volunteer" to show me the location of this next, learned being.

After making a few stops with the waiter who insisted on serving his other friendly customers, I was asked to wait in a hall for a while until he came back to get

me. My extremely punctual guide finally appeared and I was lead in a complicated, straight line at about five yards away from the previous office. It was open, but empty. So I gave up.

Well, I almost gave up. I regained some faith in the subject when a very close friend of the family, who incidentally happened to have quite a high position in the administration at the University of Jordan, offered to help me if I reported to her office the next morning. Finally, I had thought, I had found ray of hope amidst such chaotic disorganisation.

The third day I appeared in her office and was asked about my recent adventures at the University of Jordan. She then made a few on-campus calls, could not get through to the desired people, pretended to be calling from off-campus, and finally found her busy target. She seemed to be conversing with an esteemed person who, after listening to all my story narrated by her, ordered me to go to his office immediately in order to settle everything and find this almost fictitious classroom. After thanking our good friend, she informed me that it is basically impossible to find anything out here on one's own amidst this confusion and disorder and that she was glad that I had come to her for help.

I literally ran to the official's office. I found his building, I found his room. I found his secretary drinking tea at her desk. And I found her telling me he had just gone out for lunch and will not be back soon, if ever, that day.

This is not the end of my story, though. I became determined to find that classroom if it took me all summer. It didn't take me that long, however. Only about five days.

I finally and miraculously found it, sat in it, and waited for a while until the teacher got everything organised. There was a lot to do before she started teaching her class. Primarily, she was conversing with quite a few other students who had thought they

had found the right classroom. When she told them, however, that they were in the wrong section and that the other course section was located somewhere else on campus that is definitely unknown to her, they gravely floated out of the room, continuing their own quest for the missing classes. After about thirty-five minutes of organisation, she taught for ten minutes, broke five minutes early, and informed the class of another room change. I approached the teacher after class and asked her about whether there were any books that accompanied her coursework. Not to my surprise, however, she assumed that I wanted to read the books in order to miss all of her lectures and merely read the material and take the tests. She began scolding me until I interrupted to tell her that I needed the books to read along, in addition to the class material she was to lecture on. I don't think she believed me, but she went on anyway and told me that this class had no books and that what we did with her (for ten minutes a day) was enough. I concluded by telling her that these past few days and her apparent helpfulness murdered any previous enthusiasm there was in me to take her class.

On my way out of the university, I saw my friend who had helpfully and generously registered me for this class while I was away. He seemed tired and depressed. I told him my story and described to him how much and what I had learned in this wonderful, inspiring study environment for the past week. He was not the least bit surprised. When I told him, however, that I had taken my first and last class here, his eyes burst open and he said:

"Are you crazy? Do you know how many days it took me to register you for that class?" If one of our best institutes of higher knowledge and education lacks organisation, friendly and helpful faculty and administration staff, respect for its students and a sincere trust in the students'

willingness to learn and grow, how is it exactly educating? Books are not enough. A university should prepare one to

and to live with integrity. For what is work without organisation and the pursuit of knowledge without truth and respect?

It is always good to stop, take a look around, and see how things can be improved and how life can be bettered.

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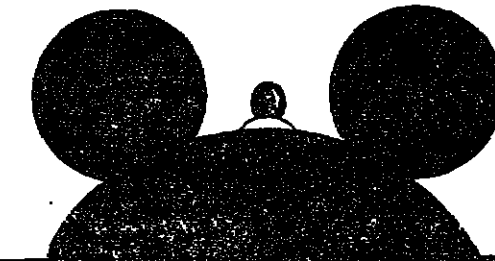
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More stone agers in Papua New Guinea

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea — A nomadic Stone Age tribe believed to be untouched by the modern world has been discovered by a government patrol in mountainous jungle northwest of here.

Government officers were reported to have found the nomadic Liawep clan, a tribe of 79 people with its own language, roaming in May in mountains in Sandaun Province, 760 kilometres northwest of the capital, Port Moresby. A district government officer, Peter Yasaro, encountered one member of the tribe while conducting a patrol, the Sydney Morning Herald reported in a front-page story.

Mr. Yasaro told the newspaper that the Liawep man was fascinated with his ax and steel bush-knife. The newspaper said the man was brought to the remote government station of Telefomin.

"They had to reassure him about the planes; he thought it was a big bird and tried to hide in case it might attack him," a spokesman for the Papua New Guinea Department of Primary Industries in the provincial capital Vanimo told the newspaper.

"We have never heard of them before and believe they have not had any outside contact," said Selena Malager, a Papua New Guinea National Broadcasting Commission journalist. "They are dressed in traditional clothes of tree bark and leaves. They have their own local dialect."

Miss Malager said the tribe was reported to worship a stone that it carried on its journeys. "Already, a mission from the Baptist Church has gone out to Papua New Guinea's West Sepik Province to find them, teach them about the 'true' God and build them a church, a Baptist spokesman said from Mount Hagen.

According to a local radio journalist, a government patrol first went to the area after tribesmen got lost and stumbled into Oksapmin about two years ago.

The tribesman was able at first to communicate only in sign language but has since learned the local variation of English.

Last month the man was able to escort the patrol in search of the Liaweps.

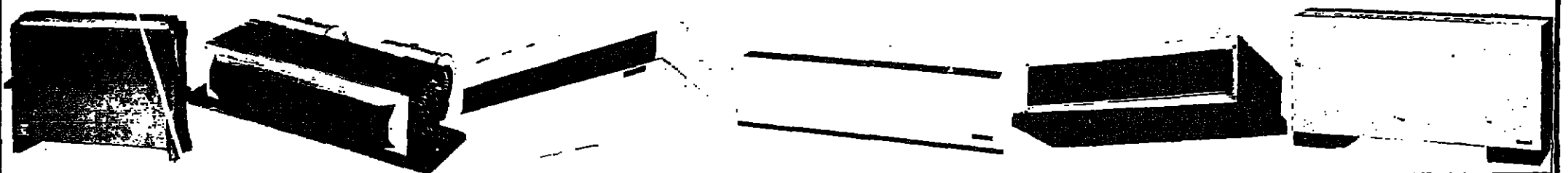
The tribe has since been introduced to such commodities as tea, salt and sugar.

"The Liawep talks about another tribe that has not been found yet living a bit further up into the mountains towards the Southern Highlands," Mr. Welby said.

But the director of Papua New Guinea's Medical Research Institute, Michael Alpers, said in Port Moresby that he was still sceptical about "lost" tribes. — International Herald Tribune.

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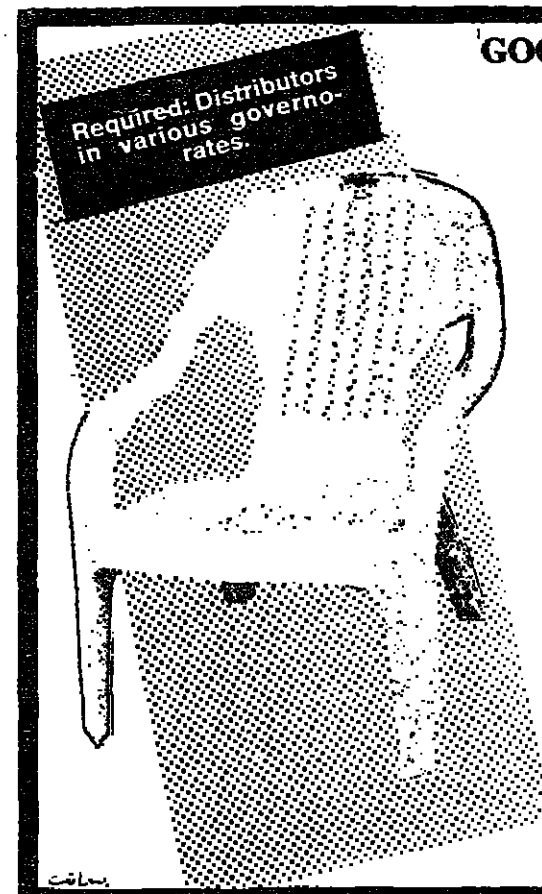
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Report says soil loss could make vast lands infertile, provoke famine

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Soil loss worldwide has been accelerating, reducing the quantity of arable land and raising the likelihood of more famine in Africa, according to a United Nations report released Tuesday.

Deforestation, overgrazing and destructive farming practices could render 140 million hectares (345 million acres) of land largely infertile over the next 20 years, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said.

"Analysis of man-made land degradation," says FAO Director General Edouard Saouma, "raises a fundamental question:

Are we going to have enough good land to feed the extra 2.6 billion people who will be on this planet by the year 2025?"

Worldwide, about 25 billion tons of soil are washed away each year, draining first into the oceans, leaving the water ways heavily laden with sediment and lands stripped of nutrients.

Already, some 305 hectares (745 million acres) of arable land, nearly equal in size to western Europe, have been so badly damaged that they have lost much of their agricultural productivity, soil scientists say.

"Once destroyed, it is gone practically forever," the FAO report said. "In all, it usually takes 3,000 to 12,000 years to make land productive."

The FAO said that each year the planet is losing an area of cultivable land nearly as large as Ireland and that if the process is not halted, it would negate all gains from new lands made for farming over the next 20 years.

"Land degradation is now proceeding so rapidly that few African countries can hope to achieve sustainable agriculture in the near future, while serious food consequences could eventually be felt as well in Latin America and Asia," Mr. Saouma said.

In the past 45 years, about 11 per cent of the world's vegetated surface has suffered either moderate or serious degradation. In Africa and Asia, four per cent of the lands have been seriously degraded compared to 1.4 per cent for South America, 1.3 per cent for North America and 2.3 per cent for Europe.

In Asia, the most serious problems are in China, India, Thailand, and Vietnam.

In Africa, the most seriously affected are Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Lesotho, Rwanda and Morocco. As much as 34 per cent of the land in Africa which is not already desert is now under threat of desertification.

Low inflation in Britain gives Major an economic boost

LONDON (R) — Britain's annual inflation rate recorded a surprise fall in June to stand at just 1.2 per cent, the lowest level for nearly three decades.

The news provides a further filip to Prime Minister John Major, who just a day earlier hailed an extremely strong 2.0 per cent surge in industrial production in May.

"All the indications are that we are witnessing a recovery," Mr. Major said in a speech to a tourism conference. "The recovery is in its infancy, but it is growing daily."

The ruling Conservatives have been under fire for months for running the economy badly but are hoping burgeoning signs of economic recovery will improve their poll ratings.

The Central Statistical Office (CSO) said the fall in the main rate of inflation, to 1.2 per cent from May's 1.3 per cent, was the lowest rate since February 1964.

The figures mean Britain's headline inflation rate has now been below the European Community average for nearly two years.

"These figures are unambiguously good and lend further support to the view of a non-inflationary recovery," said Stephen Dulake, economist at brokers PaineWebber International.

The core underlying inflation rate, which cuts out swings in the cost of home loans, remained unchanged at 2.8 per cent.

Economists said the figures showed inflation was subdued and Britain might actually be able to achieve its ambition of sustainable long-term economic growth.

German cabinet approves draft budget for next year

BONN (AFP) — The German cabinet Tuesday adopted a controversial draft budget for 1994 that calls for sharp cuts in social spending but — according to Finance Minister Theo Waigel — points to lower taxes.

Mr. Waigel hailed acceptance by the cabinet of his proposed spending plan, saying it will "boost market confidence" and create "the necessary conditions" for further interest rate cuts.

He noted that the Bundesbank, the German central bank, had already signalled its favourable opinion of the draft budget by reducing its two leading rates on July 1.

Economists in Frankfurt said it is unlikely that the Bundesbank central council will announce further cuts when it meets this Thursday. But they did not rule out such action when the council holds its last session before the August holiday, July 29.

The proposed budget envisages savings of 21 billion marks (\$12.2 billion), of which 16 billion marks would come from cuts in welfare spending.

Total spending next year would come to 478.4 billion marks (\$278 billion), an increase of 4.4 per cent over 1993, leaving a budget deficit of 67.5 billion marks (\$39 billion) — practically unchanged from the 67.6 billion mark shortfall foreseen in 1993.

The budget is based on projected growth next year of 1.5 per cent in gross domestic product.

Mr. Waigel again said he believed the slide in the German economy had been checked, although Labour Minister Norbert Blum warned Tuesday that unemployment would continue to grow in Germany to reach 3.7 million, against the current figure of 3.2 million.

Under the proposed budget, which the government hopes to see approved by parliament before the end of year, there will be less money for unemployment compensation, public works projects and training.

In addition, conditions for receiving public welfare will be tightened, scholarship levels will be frozen and civil servants will be asked to accept a salary freeze in 1994.

The public service union Tuesday described the proposed budget cuts as sign of "political bankruptcy."

Vietnam passes reformist land law

HANOI (R) — Communist Vietnam's National Assembly passed a reformist land law Wednesday under which peasants have a long lease on the state-owned land they till.

Land in largely-agricultural Vietnam, a major rice exporter, remains owned by the state but individual families in effect will be able to use it indefinitely — 20 years for short-term crops like rice, 50 years for plantation crops like fruit or rubber.

These terms are renewable, meaning that families can use a plot for generations.

Plots may be passed from one generation to the next, transferred to another tenant, subleased and used as collateral for bank loans.

The new law liberalised and codified land regulations, in line with market-oriented reforms under which private tenants have worked their plots since the late 1980, though some still group together in marketing cooperatives.

The law, one of the most important before a month-long assembly session, took five days longer than scheduled to pass, indicating heated debate on details. It was passed by 356 votes to eight, with six abstentions, assembly reporters said.

India takes stock of reforms, pledges to move boldly ahead

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India has entered the third year of economic reforms, taking cautious satisfaction at the progress it has made and pledging to move boldly ahead on the road to a free market.

"Over the past two years, we have faced and surmounted perhaps the gravest economic crisis since our independence," the finance ministry said in a stock-taking report.

"But we must also recognise that much more needs to be done," said the report, whose release coincided with a pledge of \$7.4 billion in aid by industrial nations to back the Indian March to a liberal economy.

It cautioned that change would not be painless. "It will require difficult decisions and painful adjustments," but there was no alternative.

The reforms began on July 1, 1991 with a double devaluation of the rupee at a time when India faced an unprecedented crisis with foreign exchange reserves enough for just two weeks' imports.

Inflation had soared and its credit rating had plunged, denying commercial loans and forcing it to go cap in hand to the International Monetary Fund and later mortgage its gold reserves.

"We were on the very verge of a calamitous economic precipice," the finance ministry report recalled.

The ensuing reforms, tailored by Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, saw the government apply a tight squeeze on expenditure and imports to restore financial discipline after years of rampant spending.

quasi-socialist policies, hacking away at state controls over trade and business and bantling incentives for foreign investors who for decades had been kept out of the country's huge market.

The rupee was floated and customs barriers gradually reduced. Overall economic growth went up to four per cent in fiscal 1992-93 from a dismal 1.2 per cent in 1991-92, inflation came down to seven per cent and foreign exchange reserves swelled to \$7 billion.

The government declared in February the sense of crisis was over and opened its coffers, boosting welfare spending and giving away hefty tax concessions to industry after two years of painful belt-tightening.

The finance ministry report said there was no room for complacency.

"Two years is enough to manage a crisis. It is not enough to complete the kind of structural reforms we need to put the economy on a sustainable path of six to seven per cent growth," it said.

Deficits have to be controlled, the gigantic and inefficient public sector reformed, unproductive subsidies cut, the banking system restructured to improve its bottom line, and the state's virtual monopoly over infrastructure such as electricity abolished.

Taxes and customs tariffs, still at prohibitive levels, have to be reduced further and "totally unviable, loss-making, public enterprises" have to be shut down.

Such steps have so far had to wait in the face of opposition from political parties and trade unions, who have accused the Congress (I) Party government of selling out to foreign lending agencies.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JULY 15, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Be sure to listen to the fine ideas of a blunt but generous friend who has your best interest at heart. Expansion is important right now so be sure to analyse your progress and plan more efficiently.

ARIES: March 21 to April 19) Put aside these hills and practical matters for the moment and look into ways to advance in more mental ways that can expand your knowledge, growth.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't let a scheming associate get under your skin but maintain your poise and later you can uncover ways to carry through promises more easily.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Duties seem unending and you need steadfastness to handle them wisely while in the evening you find you are annoyed about any outside matter you can help.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You want to push having a good time you feel you deserve but this pushes it farther away from you, tonight don't slough off essential tasks.

LEO: (July 22 August 21) Sidestep trouble at home over something you really do not understand and maintain harmony there while tonight don't get into expensive pleasures.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever you have in mind about some perplexing message

had best be left unanswered until a more propitious day while tonight is no time to have guests at home.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Think about financial activities but don't take any action on them during this day while tonight you can find a usually optimistic companion difficult.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have a feeling you won't be thwarted in gaining aims but you could make some harsh opponents if you force your will, tonight don't take risks with money.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have behind the scenes troubles to rise above early and later some starting condition comes into the open testing your patience, good will.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Consider well that persons you see during the daytime and avoid uneven dispositioned ones, tonight you have a sudden worry that requires much thought.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Your need for more worldly success will not be yours today so be diplomatic and careful, then tonight don't push your luck and accept present outlets.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your new ideas are not yet workable so put activity on them until a better time while in the evening you find outside interests do not develop as you hoped.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JULY 16, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You can make your future more profitable by sitting down now and planning your time. Adopt more efficient methods but be sure to get out socially in the evening and make more good business contacts.

ARIES: March 21 to April 19) You find that new ideas and inspirations of all kinds are likely to be attracted to you so be openminded and in the mood to pursue them definitely.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You suddenly realise what you can do to make your attachment happier so don't delay but put into action that actual effort required to do so.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You now find that a modern minded associate has the answers you desire so that a project you have in alliance with others can be made a greater success.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Concentrate on work activities today for you will find that the hours fly and that you have inventive ideas for new ways to progress at tasks.

LEO: (July 22 August 21) Your talent, whatever it is can be made much more satisfactory by adding some current means by which it is more acceptable to persons using it.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Consider well matters be-

neath your own roof and don't be upset if someone there wants to do something unusual but its better idea then you at first think.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are a born peacemaker and like to cooperate but today your benefits come by being more direct and straightforward and putting ideas into motion.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A flash of ways to expand your assets comes to you and it is a good thing for you to go after the benefits that can accrue from your ideas.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your prophetic insight is usually very accurate but never more so than today so listen to your intuitive perceptions and follow them to the letter, spirit.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You need to get off alone or with an advisor of much vision to expand your sights instead of being so interested in the mundane, practical.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Good friends can unexpectedly get in touch with you or you with them and a very significant day of accomplishment can take place until sundown.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Take time out today to go along with progressive ideas where whatever your interests in the outside world happen to be and you can impress hawks.

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



"Whenever I was grumpy, my mother would sing The Itsy-Bitsy Spider! Shall we try that?"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GUBEN
KULFE
PYGINT
HARPON

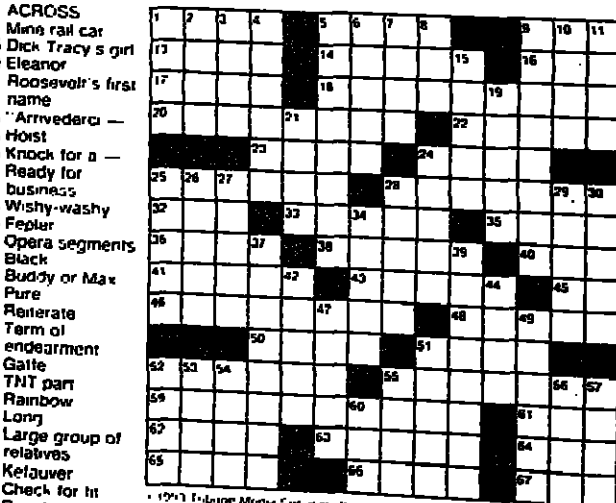
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles NEWLY WINCE ALWAYS FICKLE Answer A low down point—AN ANKLE

THE Daily Crossword

by Kenneth V. Holden



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS
1 Mine rail car
5 Dick Tracy's girl
9 Eleanor Roosevelt's first name
13 "Auld Lang Syne"
14 Host
18 Knock for a
17 Ready for business
18 Wishy-washy
20 Fagel
22 Opera segments
23 Black
24 Buddy or Max
26 Pure
28 Flourate
32 Term of endearment
33 Galle
35 TNT part
36 Rainbow
38 Long
40 Large group of relatives
41 Keldauer
43 Check for it
45 Dined
46 Plumes
48 Clamors
50 Italian river
51 Emplayo
52 Razed
55 Kind of joke
59 Topsy-turvy
61 Soft, thin mud
62 1m of TV
63 Jutlandors
64 Weight allowance
65 Hawaiian bird
66 Manufactured
67 Herringbone fish

DOWN
1 Log
2 Latent
3 Last word
4 Carnivorous insect
5 Honey-parkie
6 Premature
7 Regal
8 Vane letters
9 Antipathetic
10 Parser's concern
11 Record
12 Coaxes
15 Tronies
19 Cousteau's territory
21 Pay to play
24 He played Bar
25 Masterion
26 Pegasus, e.g.
27 Bryant or Ekberg
28 Glides
29 African mountains
30 Angry
31 Roman calendar day
34 Before grade or active
37 Sore for the future
38 Fiddle-faddle
39 How or goe
42 Rip apart
44 Christmas carol
47 Concluded
49 Fools
56 Easy slipper
57 Post Pound
58 Clarinet mouthpiece
60 Hoover, e.g.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Fighting rages in Mostar; water restored to parts of Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Fierce fighting between Muslims and Croats raged in the southern Bosnian town of Mostar Wednesday as water, cut off for weeks, was restored to parts of Sarajevo.

Meanwhile, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata arrived in the Bosnian capital Wednesday and was to visit a hospital and refugee centre before leaving the city in the late afternoon.

There were conflicting reports on the fighting in Mostar with the Croats saying they had gained territory and the Muslims denying it.

Mostar, considered the capital of the self-declared Croat Republic of Herceg-Bosna, has been the scene of ruthless battles between the two former allies for several weeks.

Vesko Vegar, the spokesman for the Croat Defence Force or HVO in Mostar, said Muslim troops who launched an offensive Tuesday on the strategic region of Dubrava "are surrounded and on the brink of defeat."

Dubrava, 300 metres above sea level, overlooks the Neretva Valley between Mostar and Capljina, through which passes the main highway leading to the Adriatic Coast.

Mr. Vegar said Tuesday's fighting left nine Croat soldiers dead and 20 others injured. He added that HVO troops, at a site captured from the Muslims, had counted the bodies of 85 Muslim soldiers.

Bosnian radio, meanwhile, was reporting that Muslim troops had

made a significant advance in the region and had opened a corridor to Stolic, located southeast of Mostar.

In other developments Wednesday, Commander Nicolas Studer, the head engineer of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Sarajevo, said water was restored to parts of the city overnight, but electricity was still out except in outlying districts under Serb control.

The return of water in western parts of the Bosnian capital was immediately apparent Wednesday morning as thousands of plastic jugs used daily by city residents to transport water by any means possible suddenly disappeared.

The city has been without electricity or water since June 21 due to heavy fighting that damaged electricity lines and water pumping stations and hampered repair efforts.

On Monday Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic signed an agreement covering repairs to water, gas and electricity supplies in the war-torn capital.

The accord "guarantees the safety of the UNPROFOR whilst they are on repair missions."

Commander Studer said the initial phase of repairs requires transferring electricity from the Kakanj power plant, located in a Muslim-held region 50 kilometres from Sarajevo, to the Blazuj power plant which supplies Serb-held areas west of Sarajevo.

In exchange, said Commander Studer, the Serbs have agreed to

reactivate a water pumping station that previously supplied 80 per cent of Sarajevo and to restore gas to the city. He said reactivation of the water pumping station Tuesday evening brought relief to 20 to 30 per cent of Sarajevo's residents.

But he added that although the Muslim side has lived up to its part of the deal, the Serbs have only fulfilled half of their promises claiming that they are experiencing technical problems in restoring gas.

Commander Studer said he will ask the Bosnian presidency to cut off electricity supplies from the Kakanj plant if the Serbs don't fulfill their part of the agreement.

The second phase of repairs, still under discussion, will entail restoring electricity to all of Sarajevo and repairing power lines coming from Serbia proper, which would enable the Serbs to resume production at a weapons factory making mortar and artillery shells.

He said he expects the weapons factory to be the major stumbling block in getting the Muslims and Serbs to agree on the second phase of repairs.

Also Wednesday, UNPROFOR spokesman Barry Frewer said his agency had received reports that 2,000 soldiers from the mainly Muslim Bosnian army have been taken prisoner in the southern town of Maglaj.

He said U.N. troops have been unable to visit that region where Muslim forces have been battling with Croat and Serb troops for several weeks.

Maj. Frewer also warned of a possible outbreak of tuberculosis in the nearby town of Zepce, also off limits to the U.N.

The United States Tuesday sent 12 A-10 ground attack planes to an air base in northern Italy for possible protection of U.N. safe havens for beleaguered Muslim in Bosnia and the French and British were also to send aircraft, defence officials said.

The U.S. Air Force planes, designed to destroy tanks and artillery with rocket and cannon fire, were moved from Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany to Aviano Air Base in Italy.

U.S. Navy Captain Michael Doubleday, a Defence Department spokesman, stressed that no final plan had been reached by NATO and the United Nations on protection of U.N. troops who might be sent to the former Yugoslavia to guarantee the designated safe zones for Muslims.

Meanwhile, a United Nations official warned Tuesday that the U.N. may have to withdraw from Bosnia if fighting, attacks on peacekeepers and humanitarian problems continue.

U.N. envoy Thorvald Stoltenberg of Norway issued the warning to shock the world into doing more to help ease the crisis in advance of peace talks scheduled in Geneva next week.

"The truth is that people are killed, we don't get through with the humanitarian convoys, and we don't get enough funds and resources to implement our mandate," Mr. Stoltenberg complained to reporters.



General view of the southern tip of Aomori on the Okushiri Island after a major earthquake destroyed 340 homes (AFP photo)

Japan quake death toll tops 100; scores are still missing

TOKYO (R) — The death toll following the strongest earthquake to hit Japan in 25 years topped the 100 mark Wednesday and scores more victims had still to be found, alive or dead.

At least 100 bodies had been recovered, police said, adding that 151 were injured and 93 still missing after Monday night's fierce tremor off Japan's northern coast that unleashed destructive tidal waves and fires.

NHK Television said the known death toll had reached 102.

The earthquake, measuring 7.8 on the Richter Scale, was centred beneath the seabed off the main northern island of Hokkaido, but its effects onshore were devastating.

A police spokesman in the Hokkaido capital of Sapporo said 300 houses had been burned down and 284 had collapsed. Floods from tidal waves had swamped 199 homes.

Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, describing the earth-

quake aftermath as heart-rending, Wednesday visited Okushiri, the small island of 4,000 people that was hardest hit. He went to the town of Aomori, shattered by tidal waves and then by fire which destroyed more than half the community's houses.

Recalling the horrors of the Monday night events, residents said the tidal waves, some high enough to reach power lines on top of pylons, followed the tremors almost immediately.

Authorities had no chance to sound the alarm about the tidal waves, which are called "tsunami" in Japanese and are a familiar feature in this quake-prone country.

"It was one minute that made all the difference whether you lived or died," said a 64-year-old fisherman.

"After the earthquake some people went back home because their child was missing or to change their clothes. These peo-

ple never returned."

Experts at Japan's Meteorological Agency said the short interval between the tremor, and the waves hitting Okushiri indicated that the earthquake erupted almost under the island.

"The tsunami most probably was almost upon the island when people realised that an earthquake had struck," one expert said.

Other experts gave warning that another tremor almost as big as Monday's could strike the same area.

They calculated that Monday's tremor had similar characteristics to a quake which hit struck Hokkaido 10 years ago — and was followed by another big jolt.

Monday's quake killed more than 60 people on Okushiri alone. 16 of them in the two-storey big ocean hotel obliterated by a landslide.

Nine people were found alive in what remained of the hotel and rescuers were searching Wednesday for 10 still missing at the site.

Corruption, changing priorities give new tilt to Japanese elections

TOKYO (Agencies) — Public outrage at a corrupt ruling class and the end of the cold war could provoke the most substantial shake-up of Japan's political structure for 38 years as Japanese voters head Sunday.

Japan, long been motivated by the fear of communism and the growing strength of the Japanese economy, giving the ruling Liberal Democratic Party a 38 year uninterrupted hold on power.

They never saw the opposition Socialist Party as a viable alternative, and seemed satisfied with the traditional balance of power which made politicians intermediaries between bureaucrats and the business community.

But in recent years a string of scandals implicating dozens of high-ranking politicians has seriously affected the Japanese

political machine, the latest being the arrest this spring of former LDP Vice-President Shin Kanemaru for tax fraud.

Mr. Kanemaru, who was accused of failing to declare wealth of more than \$15 million, is also suspected of having pocketed political contributions from construction companies worth some two billion yen (\$20 million).

Japanese public opinion was outraged at the extent to which Mr. Kanemaru had amassed wealth during the course of his political career.

Hundreds of kilograms (pounds) of gold and millions of dollars in bearer bonds were found stashed at the home of the LDP "kingmaker" who was behind the nomination of a number of Japanese prime ministers.

The present premier, Kiichi

Miyazawa, was widely seen as wanting to get the elections over before the start of Mr. Kanemaru's trial scheduled for July 22.

The slump in the fortunes of Japan's long-ruling LDP may have halted just days before Sunday's general election, according to a fresh batch of polls out Wednesday.

A survey by the newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun showed the scandal-hit LDP, though still looking certain to lose its overall majority in the 511-seat lower house, could win more than the 227 it had when a group of pro-reformers defected in June.

Another daily, the left-leaning Asahi Shimbun, said the LDP could probably retain about 222 seats, while Mainichi Shimbun said LDP strength would top 220.

At least 120 killed in Tajikistan border battle

MOSCOW (AFP) — At least 100 civilians and 20 Russian border guards were killed in an attack launched Tuesday by Tajik rebels, backed by Afghan Mujahideens across the Tajik-Afghan border from Afghanistan, news agencies reported Wednesday.

Tajik government troops supported by Russian units Wednesday said that they had stopped the advance by the guerrillas who attacked in the early hours Tuesday, Tajik Foreign Minister Rashid Alimov was quoted by ITAR-TASS as saying.

The raid was launched on the Moskovsky borderguard post, southeast of the capital of Dushanbe, by 200 Tajik rebels who managed to make headway 13 kilometres inside Tajik territory.

Mr. Alimov, quoted by the news agency, said that part of the rebel forces were wiped out in the fighting, others had fled back to Afghanistan while others were in hiding in the surrounding mountains.

Several thousand Tajik rebels, members of the Islamic Renaissance Party, fled the country during a bloody crackdown in January by pro-Communist leader Imomali Rakhmanov who came to power in Dushanbe in December.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Spanish king inaugurates parliament

MADRID (AP) — King Juan Carlos Wednesday inaugurated Spain's fifth parliament since the country returned to democratic constitutional rule in 1979, four years after the death of longtime dictator Francisco Franco. Earlier in the day, King Juan Carlos swore in Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's cabinet, which includes eight new ministers, three of them women. Mr. Gonzalez's Socialists won 159 of the 350 seats in the lower chamber of parliament in the June 6 general elections. For the first time since coming to power in 1982, the Socialists do not have a working majority in parliament. The Catalan Convergence and Union Coalition and the Basque Nationalist Party turned down offers to be the Socialists' junior partners in a ruling coalition, and Mr. Gonzalez will now have to cobble together issue-by-issue alliances to pass legislation. Since naming his new cabinet, Mr. Gonzalez has said his primary goal is to reach a social pact with labour and business to better confront Spain's serious economic crisis.

U.S., N. Korea resume nuclear talks

GENEVA (AFP) — The United States launched a new bid Wednesday to persuade North Korea to accept inspection of its nuclear sites, but the effort was clouded by an earlier war of words between the countries. The two sides resumed negotiations on means of checking fears that Pyongyang was intent on developing nuclear weapons, following a previous series of discussions last month in New York. But neither gave any sign of chances for progress in the talks, which were originally scheduled to last two days, a U.S. spokesman said only that "if progress is made there will be a second round of talks Friday." The discussions follow a warning by U.S. President Bill Clinton during a weekend visit to the Korean peninsula that "it would be the end of their country" by Pyongyang developed and used nuclear arms. The Korean Central News Agency responded Monday with its own warning that "if anyone dares to provoke us we will immediately show him in practice what our bold decision is." But the North Korean delegation, led by First Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok Ju, said on arrival here Monday that progress in resolving the row was possible if both sides maintained a "serious and sincere approach."

Buthelezi urges referendum on constitution

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi called Wednesday for a national referendum on constitutional proposals for the "new South Africa." The people should decide whether a draft constitution hammered out by multi-party negotiations was acceptable, the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) leader told a Johannesburg business meeting. The Zulu-based IFP walked out of the talks two weeks ago after 19 of the 26 parties taking part ratified next April 27 as the date for South Africa's first universal-suffrage elections. Mr. Buthelezi told the Johannesburg meeting that in order to prevent a total breakdown in the talks, the IFP would wait until the draft constitution was presented "before deciding on the sincerity of the African National Congress (ANC) and its new-found ally, the (ruling) National Party (NP). By accepting this route we want to see whether the ANC and the NP are sincere in their claims of providing constitutional guarantees for the self-determination aspirations of South Africans," Mr. Buthelezi said.

2 regions strike blow against Yeltsin

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin suffered a setback Wednesday when two more Russian regions, one in the west and one in Siberia, attacked his draft constitution. ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted Yuri Semyonov, chairman of the Kaliningrad Regional Council (local parliament) as saying his western enclave could follow several other Russian regions and upgrade itself to republican status. Valery Mukha, head of the Novosibirsk Regional Administration in Siberia, was quoted by TASS as saying it was "senseless" for the Constitutional Assembly to carry on. The assembly is due to meet again in August after local parliaments in Russia's 88 members of the federation consider the constitutional draft. Mr. Yeltsin's assembly Monday approved a new draft law granting the regions, some of which are bigger and have more population than the republics, the same economic rights as the latter.

Army asked to defend Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Just two days from the opposition's planned "long march" on Islamabad, embattled Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is seeking assurances from the army that it will act to halt the demonstration. A government spokesman said Mr. Sharif wanted the army to make a commitment to stop the opposition's plan to lay siege to the capital Friday with some 500,000 marchers in a bid to force the prime minister's ouster. A meeting was in progress between senior army and Interior Ministry officials to adopt the same strategy used in November to bloc the city's entry points during a previous opposition march, a government spokesman said. The planned march comes amid a deepening power struggle between Mr. Sharif and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, prompted earlier this year by Mr. Sharif's attempt to reduce the president's powers.

Abkhazian leaders snub Georgian ultimatum

MOSCOW (AFP) — Leaders of breakaway Abkhazia Wednesday dismissed as "bluff" an ultimatum from Georgia to withdraw rebel troops from villages surrounding Sukhumi, setting the stage for a Georgian offensive against the main separatist stronghold.

"Abkhazian forces have liberated the villages of Akalskheny and Shroma from the Georgian occupation and have no intention of handing them back to the aggressors," deputy speaker Sokrat Djindjoliya was quoted as saying by ITAR-TASS.

Georgian Defence Minister Giorgi Karakashvili has given the pro-independence fighters until midnight Wednesday to pull out of the two villages near Sukhumi, or face a large-scale drive against Gudauta, seat of the separatist parliament.

Abkhazian leaders moved their legislature from Sukhumi north to Gudauta when government troops stormed the main city last August, one month after lawmakers declared "sovereignty" from Georgia.

Abkhazian Defence Minister Sultan Sosnelia dismissed the ultimatum as "just another bluff from the Georgian leadership" adding that it was not the first time that Tbilisi had threatened to engage in a massive attack. Interfax reported.

Meanwhile, Russia continued to step up its efforts to end the 11-month war in the Black Sea region, stating that it was prepared to send a peacekeeping force in Abkhazia, once a ceasefire is reached.

In a speech to delegates attending a conference on the Caucasus in the south Russian city of Sochi, Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev laid out a peace plan for Abkhazia that would provide for a buffer zone between warring Abkhazians and Georgians. Interfax reported.

The troops would be deployed along the buffer zone, whose location he did not specify, and would have the right to use force in response to an attack by any side, the foreign minister said.

"Russia issues a formal warning that a great responsibility will fall on any side that attempts to fuel the conflict," Mr. Kozyrev was quoted by the news agency as saying.

He added that Russia was prepared to mediate talks aimed at reaching a settlement for Abkhazia immediately following the ceasefire and the deployment of the buffer troops.

Abkhazian leaders have refused to sign a ceasefire agreement unless their separatist parliament is allowed to return to Sukhumi.

Abkhazian units continued to pound Sukhumi overnight and attempted to push forward their advance on the main city, the press centre of Georgian military headquarters said, quoted by Interfax.

Morillon gets hero's welcome on Bastille Day

PARIS (AP) — Sporting his U.N. peacekeeper's blue beret, Gen. Philippe Morillon received a hero's welcome Wednesday in the annual Bastille Day military parade on the Champs-Elysees.

Thousands of people huddled under a driving rain to glimpse the parade and Gen. Morillon, a symbol of national pride and world hero for his defiance of the Serbs in war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The parade, held to celebrate the fall of the Bastille Prison that sparked the French Revolution in 1789, was dedicated this year to French troops serving as peacekeepers with the United Nations, and to France's Joint Army Corps with Germany.

President Francois Mitterrand saluted the 14,000 French soldiers serving under the United Nations flag in Somalia, Cambodia, Lebanon and especially ex-Yugoslavia, where several have been killed.

"Under the colours of the United Nations, our soldiers each day bear witness to France's engagement," Mr. Mitterrand said in a message read Tuesday to the troops.

Gen. Morillon, 57, left Bosnia last week after 16 months with U.N. peacekeepers in ex-Yugoslavia. His stubborn refusal in March to let the Serbs capture the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica won him the nickname "General Courage."

President Francois Mitterrand embraced Gen. Morillon in a ceremony at the Elysees Palace before the parade and promoted him from commander to Grand Officer in the Legion of Honour, France's highest award.

The homage "concerns your

person and an image of France that we are all proud of, one I personally take pride in," Mitterrand told Gen. Morillon in a brief ceremony at the Elysees Palace.

Morillon received a place of honour in the reviewing stand. So did Dr. Evelyn Lambert, named to the Legion of Honour for caring for 21 nursery schoolers during a hostage-taking drama in May.

On Tuesday, Premier Edouard Balladur appointed Gen. Morillon a government counselor on military affairs. The government said that Gen. Morillon hopes to serve on the United Nations peacekeeping staff in New York. The general is expected to visit U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali Sunday to report on his mission in Bosnia.

Gen. Morillon won wide respect for standing up to the Serbs in Srebrenica, but the U.N.'s limited mandate prevented him from doing much to stop the Serb conquest of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Public outcry forced the Defence Ministry in April to cancel plans to rotate Gen. Morillon out of Bosnia, though the general said he was ready to leave. He finally returned Saturday.

The high command turned down a proposal — not to Gen. Morillon's liking, either — to give him command of the Metz military region which would have given him a fifth star.

Gen. Morillon's superiors apparently feared his celebrity status might disrupt the command, while the general himself preferred to put the experience he gained in Bosnia to work for the U.N.



French President Francois Mitterrand (left) congratulates Gen. Philippe Morillon Wednesday, after investing him with the decoration of Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour (AFP photo)

Some 6,000 soldiers paraded down the Champs-Elysees during the parade, led off by Mr. Mitterrand in a jeep escorted by the mounted Republican Guard, sabers and brass helmets gleaming.

The loudest cheers from a crowd that included many tourists were reserved for the Foreign Legion, heavily represented in the peacekeeping contingents. The Legion's band performed a

selection of its marches, some dating back to the 1870s, for Mr. Mitterrand.

The troops paraded two kilometres from the Arc De Triomphe to the Place De La Concorde. They included infantry, armoured units, military cadets, sailors, motorcycle police and Paris firefighters. Air force jets lay down blue, white and red contrails.

Aspin to back 'don't ask don't tell' policy on gays

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Les Aspin will recommend a "don't ask, don't tell" compromise to President Bill Clinton on the issue on whether homosexuals should serve in the military, the New York Times reported Wednesday. It quoted gay rights advocates who said they had been briefed by senior Pentagon officials. The officials had said the move was an effort to meet the concerns of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and others opposed to less restrictive compromises, the newspaper reported. The "don't ask, don't tell" policy means that gays will be able to serve in the military provided that they avoid public or private declarations of their sexual orientation. Mr. Clinton, who took office proposing to end a ban on homosexuals in the military, could come up with another plan, the newspaper said. Thomas Sheridan and Chai Feldblum of the Campaign For Military Service said two senior officials had told them military policy would be rewritten to say that "homosexual conduct" not "homosexuality" was incompatible with military service. "They told us, 'it's this position or the president can decide for himself if he wants to go down in flames,'" the newspaper quoted Mr. Sheridan as saying. The Campaign For Military Service is a coalition of gay-rights organisations.

Japanese want to copy Gazza mask

ROME (AFP) — Japanese doctors have decided that the mask used to get Paul Gascoigne back into soccer is a technological wonder they want to copy. Lazio's team doctor Tuesday received a plea for help from his counterpart at Grampus Eight who faces a similar injury problem, the club said. Gascoigne suffered a depressed cheekbone after being elbowed in the face during England's World Cup game against Holland. But he was able to make a speedy return to soccer with the carbon-fibre Phantom of the Opera style mask that protected his cheek. Grampus Eight's Tetsuya Asano has suffered a Gazza-style injury and his team want to know how Gascoigne's was made so they can get Ashano back on the field, according to the plea sent to Lazio.

Archaeologists discover ancient cloth fragment

CHICAGO (AP) — A cloth fragment dating to 7000 B.C. was found at an archaeological site in southeastern Turkey, scholars said. It is at least 500 years older than any cloth ever found before. "This is a fascinating discovery because it pushes back the date at which we know textiles were produced," said Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood, director of the Stitching Textile Research Centre at the National Museum of Ethnology at Leiden in the Netherlands, and one of the scholars studying the cloth. The semi-fossilised cloth — still clinging to what was probably the handle of a tool — was recovered from Cayonu, a site near the upper Tigris River about 30 miles (50 kilometres) from the city of Diyarbakir. The site has been the scene of joint explorations by the University of Chicago and Istanbul University for 30 years. The two universities planned to announce their find Tuesday. No cloth made earlier than about 6500-6000 B.C. previously had been discovered, although some minute clay impressions of textiles about the same age as the Cayonu cloth had been found. The fragment is believed to be linen and measures 7.6 centimetres by 3.8 centimetres. It was clinging to a tool handle believed to be a portion of an antler.

'Flying bishops' to allay fears over women priests

LONDON (AFP) — Church of England leaders pledged Tuesday to form a squad of "flying bishops" to counter fears of a damaging schism over the emotive issue of the ordination of women. The church's General Synod meeting in the northern city of York voted by a large majority to give opponents of Anglican women priests the option of receiving spiritual guidance from a like-minded "flying bishop" while remaining under the authority of their own diocese. Supporters of women priests living in a traditionalist diocese would be able to call on the same service, the synod said. "I believe it will provide a way for us to be together, to work together and to know we belong together while at the same time... respect the differences between us," Archbishop of York John Habgood said. Since the synod in November ruled in favour of the ordination of women hundreds of worshippers and several priests have left the Anglican Church in protest.

Algeria face World Cup defeat

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Algeria, humiliated by Nigeria two weeks ago, visit Ivory Coast Sunday, where another defeat will end their challenge for a place at the 1994 World Cup finals.

After eliminating highly-rated Ghana in the first qualifying phase, little has gone right for the Algerians, who were finalists twice during the past decade. They had to come from behind to salvage a 1-1 home draw with the Ivory Coast, and crashed 4-1 in Lagos despite the boost of a fifth-minute goal from leading scorer Abdul Hafid Tassafout.

Form favours the Ivorians, who lead Group A with three points after defeating the powerful Nigerians 2-1 in Abidjan through late goals by Abdoulaye Traore and Ahmad Ouattara.

But Algeria, whose 1982 victory over West Germany ranks among the greatest World Cup upsets, have tradition on their side, not having lost to the "Elephants" in three previous meetings.

Cameroon were the heroes of

the last World Cup finals, bowing out after taking England to extra time in a five-goal quarterfinal thriller in Naples three years ago.

The first African nation to reach the last eight are not even sure of qualifying for the United States though, after losing 1-0 in Zimbabwe, and they will be underdogs in Guinea Sunday.

Guinea lead the Group C standings because they have scored more goals than the Indomitable Lions, trouncing Zimbabwe 3-0 at home after falling 3-1 in Cameroon.

Given little chance of making the second round, the Guineans have been a revelation at their compact ground, where they slammed four goals past Kenya in the first phase.

French-based Aboubakar Titi Camara scored twice against the Harambee Stars, and his early goal triggered the downfall of Zimbabwe, whose victims included 1990 finalists Egypt.

Although unlucky 1-0 losers in Casablanca, where Mohammed Chaouch struck just six minutes

from the final whistle, Senegal will not relish hosting Morocco Saturday in Group B.

The Moroccans have won five and drawn two of eight previous World Cup clashes, and in three visits to Dakar the North Africans have triumphed twice.

Senegal have not been in action since Casablanca — their home fixture against Zambia in May being postponed after most of the visitors' squad perished in an air crash off Gabon.

Morocco, who along with Algeria, Cameroon and Egypt have represented Africa twice at the World Cup finals, were beaten 2-1 in Lusaka by a side playing together for the first time.

Zambia succeeded after continuously attacking their ultra-cautious opponents, and talented strikers like Souleymane Same could pave the way for Senegalese celebrations.

The winners of the three groups, playing on a mini-league basis and scheduled for completion by Oct. 10, will represent Africa at the finals, the first to be staged in the United States.

American League wins All-Star Game

BALTIMORE, Maryland (AFP) — Minnesota's Kirby Puckett, without an extra-base hit in eight previous all-star appearances, smacked a home run and a run-scoring double to give the American League (AL) a 9-3 victory over the National League (NL) in baseball's All-Star Game.

"Some people say I shouldn't be here. My numbers are down," Puckett said. "(But) I've always gone out and played hard every day."

A crowd of 48,147 at Camden Yards watched the AL win its sixth straight victory over the NL honour squad. Puckett was named the game's Most Valuable Player.

"I've felt real good at the plate," Puckett said. "I didn't try to do anything different, just go out and have fun."

Jack McDowell of the Chicago White Sox was the winning pitcher. San Francisco's John Burkett took the loss.

"We had a good time out there, but the AL killed us," NL outfielder Bobby Bonds said. "We went out confident, but those guys are powerhouses out there."

Ivan Rodriguez of Texas opened the AL's big fifth inning by hitting a fly that lodged between two pads in the left field wall for a ground-rule double. Rodriguez took their base on a sacrifice and scored on a single to right by Cleveland's Belle.

Belle scored on a double to right field by Seattle's Ken Griffey Jr. to put the AL ahead 4-2. Puckett followed with a double to left to bring Griffey home.

The NL pulled within 3-3 in the sixth inning when San Francisco's Bonds doubled, took third on a single by Florida's Gary Sheffield and scored on a sacrifice fly by Cincinnati's Barry Larkin.

But the AL all-stars responded in their half of the inning. Toronto's Devon White hit a run-scoring double. White and Belle later scored from third base on wild pitches by Atlanta's John Smoltz, boosting the NL margin to 3-3.

Oakland's Terry Steinbach sent home the final run with a double off the top of the right-field wall. The AL began its scoring on Puckett's homer.

Marseille hope for Athens trip

GENEVA (AFP) — Olympique Marseille were drawn against AEK Athens in the European Champions Cup here Wednesday, amidst speculation they may not be allowed to defend their title.

Marseille's participation in next season's tournament is in doubt because of the match-rigging scandal at home. The club's General Manager Jean-Pierre Bernes and defender Jean-Jacques Eyudelle are accused of trying to bribe three Valenciennes players to throw a league match on May 20.

UEFA is giving the French Federation until Aug. 30 to decide whether to replace Marseille with another team, but the union has also reserved the right to make any changes it wishes at any stage of the competition.

Paris St. Germain were the league runners-up last season. AC Milan, the team who Marseille beat 1-0 in the Cup final at Munich, have been drawn against a team from the preliminary round, as have several of the other top seeds in the competition.

Manchester United, who won the Cup Winners' Cup in 1991, return to the fray against Hamburg. Kipsed Honved, while Glasgow Rangers drew Levski

Sofia of Bulgaria. Werder Bremen of Germany should sweep past Dynamo Minsk of Belarus, but Johan Cruyff's Barcelona could be in trouble against Dynamo Kiev.

Two other continental big guns drew minnows from next month's preliminary round, Feyenoord facing either Partizan Tirana of Albania or Akranes of Iceland and Anderlecht getting HJK Helsinki or Estonians Norma Tallinn.

In the European Cup Winner's Cup, the top-seeded clubs also have the luxury of playing teams who had to pass a preliminary round to qualify.

Italian holders Parma take on either Silema Wanderers of Malta or Sweden's Degerfors, while Paris St. Germain, if they are not suddenly catapulted into the Champions Cup, take on Apolonia or Northern Ireland's Bangor.

Torino will be heading to Estonia and Nikol Tallinn, or Norway and Lillestrom.

English Premier League club Arsenal drew the winner of a qualifier between Odense of Denmark and Slovenian club Publikum, while Aberdeen will meet a Scandinavian side — either Valur of Iceland or Finland's Anjalank.

Cardiff City were not so fortunate and drew top Belgian club Standard Liege, who were runners-up in their league last season.

In the UEFA Cup, holders Juventus open the defence of their title in Russia, against Lokomotiv Moscow, a tie which should go the Italians' way.

The same can be said for the Calcio's two other representatives, Lazio, who start at home to Bulgarians Lokomotiv Plovdiv, and Inter Milan, who travel to Rapid Bucharest.

British clubs have little to celebrate, with Norwich City drawing the Dutch of Vitesse Arnhem and Aston Villa travelling to the Czech Republic to face Slovan Bratislava.

Hearts have an uphill task against Atletico Madrid, although Celtic are at home to Swiss club Young Boys Bern, while Dundee United face Danish side Brondby, also on Scottish soil.

Elsewhere, Bayern Munich face Belgian club Twente Enschede, while their compatriots from the Bundesliga, SC Karlsruhe, were given an unpleasant surprise in the shape of PSV Eindhoven.

Eintracht Frankfurt were not much luckier drawing Dynamo Moscow.

Monaco face Tenerife, the team who have denied Real Madrid the Spanish championship for the past two seasons.

First round first leg matches will be played on Sept. 14 and 15, with the second legs on Sept. 28 and 29.

However, the fixtures in all of the tournaments are being overshadowed by the future of Marseille.

UEFA said Tuesday that it had included Marseille in the draw because "the alleged corruption" investigations have not been completed. There is therefore no reason to keep them out.

But UEFA and separately the French League have made it clear that if the charges are proved, there is little chance of Marseille being allowed to continue in Europe next season.

Noel Le Great, the League president, told France Soir newspaper Wednesday: "It is certain that Marseille will start the French championship, whatever happens... but as for the European Cup, it's not sure."

"I am not sure that Marseille will be taking part in this competition."

Formula One faces crisis at Paris talks

PARIS (R) — The 1993 Formula One world championship could be plunged into chaos Thursday if the sport's leaders ban high-technology driver aids and punish teams for using irregular fuels.

Constructors' Championship leaders Williams have threatened to withdraw from the German and Hungarian Grand Prix if their active-suspension system is banned.

They could also face a points deduction, possibly losing the 10 points won by their leading driver Alain Prost at the Spanish Grand Prix, if the ELF fuel they used for that race is found to contravene International Motor Sports Federation (FISA) regulations.

Williams Technical Director Patrick Head said at last weekend's British Grand Prix at Silverstone: "If active is banned forthwith, we will naturally appeal. If that is turned down, Williams-Renault will not take part in the German Grand Prix. Nor at the Hungarian three weeks later."

Head said it would be impossible for Williams to convert their standard-setting FW15C cars, equipped with active suspension and a host of other technological aids such as traction control.

Anti-lock braking systems and semi-automatic gearboxes, to conventional "passive" suspension, using springs, in a short space of time.

"We don't have anywhere to mount conventional springs on our FW15C chassis. It's as simple as that," Head said. "We would need time to manufacture new chassis."

The extraordinary meeting of the FISA World Council has been called for Thursday and Friday to examine the stewards' report at the Canadian Grand Prix which alleged virtually all cars were contravening technical regulations with their high-technology driver aids and suspension systems.

The meeting will also examine the fuel analysis reports of "certain cars and teams" at the San Marino, Spanish, Monaco and Canadian Grand Prix.

Many observers believe FISA has called this meeting just to force teams to accept their technical regulations proposed for 1994 which would ban all computerised technology from the sport.

Most leading teams, including Williams and McLaren, favour the use of computerised electro-

nics as they regard the sport as displaying both exciting racing and high technology to a worldwide audience.

Several smaller teams, however, have objected. They say it is too expensive and reduces the influence of the drivers. Technology, the argument runs, has made the sport less exciting, the racing less close and the spectacle less attractive.

Teams met at Silverstone Saturday but failed to reach unanimous agreement — required for any changes to regulations by the concordat agreement governing the sport — on the way ahead.

Leading French engine manufacturers Renault, who supply their V10 power units to Williams, have said they will consider withdrawing from the sport if electronics are banned.

Both McLaren and Williams have said they are prepared to consider taking legal action against FISA if their technology is banned forthwith.

If this happened it would almost certainly leave the outcome of this year's championship to be decided in courtrooms rather than on the race track.

Indurain takes control of Tour de France

SERRE-CHEVALIER, France (AFP) — Miguel Indurain tightened his vice-like grip on the Tour de France here Wednesday, as the Spaniard scattered his rivals in the French Alps.

Top Swiss rider Tony Rominger won the first mountain stage of the Tour, but it was Indurain who emerged the real winner of the Bastille Day 10th stage.

After his time-trial triumph at

Lac de Madine, which secured Indurain the yellow jersey, his challengers knew they had to attack the Spaniard from the start of the mountains to on turn the pressure.

Instead it was Indurain who upped the pace, with only Rominger of his main competitors able to stay with him.

The 32-year-old Swiss snatched his first Tour stage win by edging

out Colombian Alvaro Mejia and the Spaniard after the gruelling 204km climb between Villard-Lans and Serre Chevalier.

But by then Indurain already knew he had achieved his main purpose, all but destroying key Italian challengers Claudio Chiappucci and Gianni Bugno on the highest climb of the day.

The peloton blew apart up the 2,645m Galibier, with the leading trio escaping with Pole Zenon Jaskuila and American And Hampsten after chasing down an earlier breakaway.

The only other riders capable of matching the scorching pace were Dutchman Erik Breukink and Ireland's Stephen Roche, but Breukink lost 3min 32sec to drop from second overall to tenth, while Roche saw his form collapse on the final climb.

The real victims, however, were Chiappucci and Bugno, whose Tour hopes as good as vanished as they limped home. Bugno more than seven and a half minutes back and Chiappucci almost 15 minutes adrift in the overall standings.

Indurain now leads the event 3min 32sec in front of Mejia. Breukink and Rominger, both names as potential winners before the event, are at 5:07 and 5:44 respectively.

Thursday's 180km stage takes place between Serre-Chevalier and Isola 2000 and includes the first category climbs of Izard and Vars.

Australian breaks world swimming record

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (R) — Australia's Kieren Perkins converted 24 hours of annoyance into a 1,500 metres freestyle short-course world record Wednesday.

On the last night of the inaugural Oceania/Asia Grand Prix meeting, Olympic champion Perkins clocked 14 minutes 26.52 seconds to slice 5.88 seconds from the mark he set in Canberra in February 1992.

It was the seventh world record the 19-year-old Australian had set in the last 18 months. Frustrated and angry at allowing New Zealand's Danyon Loader to snatch the 400 metre event, Perkins gave full vent to his feelings.

"I really didn't expect to do anything tonight after the 400 last night... which wasn't a fabulous swim for me," Perkins told reporters.

"I wasn't very happy last night so I gave me a lot of things to do tonight and I went out to see how well I could improve on them."

Perkins went out more slowly than in his Canberra record swim and worked steadily at getting under world-record pace.

At 700 metres he was 3.2 seconds off world-record pace, at

1,100 just one second off. At 1,200 he was inside the schedule and on his way to the record.

Perkins touched almost 50 metres ahead of his nearest rival, fellow-Australian Daniel Kowalski who clocked a personal best

time of 14 minutes 50.07 seconds.

Perkins proved himself the world's outstanding distance swimmer at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics when he scattered all his rivals and won the 1,500 title.


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The Directorate of Projects Services/Ministry of Education announces the retendering of the following tenders as a part of the Education Sector Investment Project No. (JO-P8) financed by the government of Japan.			
Tender's No.	Title	Fees JD	
12/92	General furniture	40.00	
15/92	Sports equipment	12.00	
16/92	Arts and crafts W/Sh	25.00	
17/92	Pre-vocational edu. W/Sh	20.00	
18/92	Office equipment	28.00	

Interested bidders are invited to collect documents from the Procurement Division of the Directorate of Projects Services/Ministry of Education, starting July 11, 1993, against the payment of the above fees. Closing date will be 10.00 a.m. of August 31, 1993. Head of Special Tenders Committee

TODAY	Cinema	Tel.: 677420	Cinema	Tel.: 699238	Cinema	Tel.: 634144	Cinema	Tel.: 675571	Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625155
	CONCORD	IMPULSE	PLAZA	STALLONE — IN Dolby Stereo	PHILADELPHIA	Al Pacino — in	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	AHLAN THEATRE	AHLAN NABIL AND HISHAM THEATRE
	Shows: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:30, 6:15		CLIFFHANGER Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30		SCENT OF A WOMAN Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9 p.m.	For the first time in Amman you have a date with the National Palestinian Theatre — the Gaza Strip — in a play entitled: The Assassination of Hanchalah by artist Saeed Bitar Shows on Friday and Saturday, June 4 and 5 at 8:30 p.m. Please book seats in advance	The theatre will be closed in preparation for "Ahlam Araw" which will be shown at the Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts.	

Yemeni Jews taken to Israel in secret

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel has secretly brought 246 Jews to the "promised land" over the last 12 months from Yemen, immigration officials revealed Wednesday.

Uri Gordon, head of the Jewish Agency's immigration department, told a press conference at an absorption centre in Rehovot, south of Tel Aviv, that the operation, launched in August last year with six families, would continue.

The immigrants arrive in small batches via a European capital, but military censors had blacked out details in a bid to protect about 1,000 Jews still living in Yemen and working mainly as goldsmiths and jewellers.

The latest group to reach Israel was 40 strong. The new arrivals were said to be "very religious".

Mr. Gordon said 189 of the immigrants arrived this year and 57 during 1992 making a total of 40 families and eight bachelors. Ninety of the total of 246 had been settled in a centre in Ashkelon, on the coast further south of Tel Aviv.

Details of immigration of Jews from countries technically at war with Israel are regarded as military information and subject to censorship.

In April 1992, then Absorption Minister Yitzhak Peretz caused a furore when he revealed that Israel was working behind the scenes to organise the return home of the last 1,500 Jews living in Yemen.

Last March, the ultra-orthodox newspaper Yated Neeman reported that 100 Jews from Yemen had emigrated secretly to Israel and complained that they had been settled at a secular absorption centre in Rehovot.

Between June 1949 and July 1950 some 43,000 Yemeni Jews emigrated to Israel in an airlift dubbed "Operation Magic Carpet". Some 16,000 others arrived in Palestine before the creation of the state of Israel in 1948.

According to official figures some 2,000 Yemeni Jews arrived in Israel after 1950.

The Maariv newspaper, which broke the story Wednesday, said the immigrants were steeped in ancient Jewish customs and speak a strongly accepted Biblical Hebrew.

The women wear brightly-coloured pantaloons and the men ritual dress and a kippa head covering, but integration proves difficult, the daily said, noting the frequency of bigamy and child marriages.

Mr. Gordon said some of the immigrants, who started arriving in August 1992, wanted to return to Yemen.

"Some immigrants just don't have the moral fiber and strength needed for the difficult absorption process. We shall of course try to do everything possible to convince them to stay," Mr. Gordon said.

Reports in the Israeli press said some of the 264 immigrants faced adjustment difficulties because of their strict religious observances and conservative traditions.

One man identified as Suliman Boni came with two wives and eight children. Mr. Boni is only entitled to government help in purchasing one home, but was quoted saying he needs two because the women do not get along.

Another case involves a couple, age 15 and 13, with an infant. They are technically underage to receive Israeli housing benefits, the report said.

Many of the new arrivals are related to the veteran immigrants, but were unable to keep in touch over the years because of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Last March, Yemen's then foreign minister, Abdul Karim Al Iryani, confirmed that some Jews had left, and that they were permitted free travel abroad.

But he added, "we do not sanction their travel to Israel."



PRINCE ALI VISITS BOSNIANS: His Royal Highness Prince Ali Ben Al Hussein Wednesday visited Bosnian families hosted by Jordan at Umm Teena school in Amman. Prince Ali was briefed on the facilities offered to the Bosnians and heard their needs and demands. The Prince was received upon arrival at the school building by Minister of Awqaf

and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abadi, who heads the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO), and several officials. Dr. Abadi briefed the Prince on the needs of the Bosnian families and programmes and plans prepared by the JHCO (Petra photo)

Global divide, perceptions of Islam in focus at Al al Bait debate

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The continuing East-West divide and a rejuvenation of fundamental Islam were the main themes of the second day of discussions of the ninth conference of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al al Bait).

Prominent Islamic theologians and scholars from Egypt, Jordan, Iran, Pakistan, Bosnia, Senegal and Europe presented papers on various aspects of the conferences theme — Man and the Future Civilisation: An Islamic Perspective.

The shortcomings of Muslims in science and technology as well as their adoption of Western cultures drew condemnation from all participants.

Dr. Seyyed Hossein Nasr, an Iranian scholar who teaches Islamic studies at the University of George Washington in the United States, blasted contemporary Islamic movements for creating an intellectual vacuum by ignoring or opposing scholarly and spiritual achievements of Islamic civilisation.

"He said Muslims who emulated Western habits, traditions and ways of thought, coupled with 'puritanical reformers' were the main reason for the demise of Muslims and Islam."

Islam.

"The opposite forces of modernism and puritanical reform were joined in their rejection or criticism of much of Islamic civilisation with catastrophic results for that civilisation," Dr. Nasr told an audience of scholars and theologians attending the conference.

The renowned Sheikh Mohammad Ghazali of Egypt supported Dr. Nasr's basic message. "Muslims in this century are unsuccessful because they either misunderstand or misapply Islam," he said.

"The inability to become a scientifically oriented society which the Muslims once were is one of the reasons why four million Jews were able to defeat 200 million Arabs," Sheikh Ghazali told his audience.

Human rights, said the Egyptian speaker, were one of the first concepts to be embraced by Muslims and "I wonder why our women are not given their rights as stated in the Koran to this very day."

Poverty and need in most Muslim countries, Sheikh Ghazali said, are nothing more than the "fruit of corrupt regimes which rule most of the Muslim World."

Heated discussions broke out between Muslims and non-Muslims over the issue of who implements the Koran. Sheikh Yousef Qardawi was

one of several speakers opposed to the concept that man executes the wishes of God on earth as Dr. Ali Othman suggested.

"God is the only one with whose will things happen; man is in another sphere," said Sheikh Qardawi, an Egyptian. Theological and humanistic concepts were stressed by Pakistani speaker Dr. Javid Iqbal, who told the audience that one of the most important contributions of Islamic civilisation was its ability to "the moral uplift of man" which was the "amalgamation of man's spiritual dimension with the temporal and material."

More terrestrial issues, however, were touched upon by Senegalese speaker Abdulah Bah, who talked about a fading of Islamic culture in black Africa where people were turning away from monotheism and "returning to their pre-monotheistic religions and customs."

For Ismail Baltech, a Bosnian Muslim living in Austria, the theme of a return to Islam in search of spiritual comfort and protection dominated his discourse. The people of Bosnia are reawakening to the teachings of Islam as a means of protection in the face of extermination, Mr. Baltech said.

The conference ends Thursday.

FAO report warns of starvation in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — Signs of famine have been detected in Iraq, and a U.N. agency says a "grave human tragedy" could unfold if no steps were taken to alleviate growing suffering.

The English-language government daily Baghdad Observer said Wednesday that the warning was contained in an assessment report by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The newspaper published excerpt of the purported report, which seemed to support the government's arguments for lifting a three-year-old U.N. embargo imposed after Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

It coincided with a new standoff with the United Nations after Baghdad refused to allow installation of surveillance cameras at missile-testing sites, insisting it would cooperate with the effort — one of the Gulf war ceasefire terms — if the embargo was lifted or eased.

It also came as negotiations continued in New York with an Iraq team over the possible one-time sale of \$1.6 billion worth of Iraqi oil to finance food and other essential purchases.

The Observer said the findings were compiled by international experts from FAO, the World Food Programme and the food supply assessment mission who toured 17 Iraqi provinces June 14-28.

The report said the mission found "prevalence of commonly recognised pre-famine indicators."

It said: "There is soaring unemployment, drastically reduced food intake, larger scale depletion of private assets, high morbidity level, escalating crime rates and rapidly increasing number of destitute people."

"Beggars have become a common sight on Iraqi streets and more of them ask for food rather than cash."

The report said Iraq will need to import 5.4 million tonnes of assorted food between June 1993 and July 1994 at an estimated cash of \$2.5 billion.

Independent market surveys carried out in urban and rural areas showed a phenomenal increase in food prices. The price of wheat has increased 355 fold between June 1990 and June 1993. Rice costs 70 times more than it did before the invasion, it said.

"The mission's investigation showed that personal incomes, in terms of purchasing power, have virtually collapsed," and an "increasing number of children were dropping out of school to enter petty trading to supplement their family income," it said.

"The mission found that for a large section of the population the coping mechanisms are fast running out... it should be noted that the (government's) food aid has so far covered five to seven per cent of the total population of Iraq. The needs of the country are enormous and cannot be met through handouts."

The mission also noted that lack of farm machinery, spare parts and water pumps were the main hindrance in Iraqi efforts to raise domestic food output.

"A partial substitution of mechanical operations by manual labour has led to inordinate delays in planting and harvesting operations and a significant increase in pre-harvest losses," the report said.

"Livestock numbers have continued to decline due to serious shortages of food, veterinary drugs which are causing increased mortality and slaughter rates."

Sarbanes: End of boycott needed for Mideast peace

WASHINGTON (USA) — Ending the Arab economic boycott of Israel is a necessary step if peace is to be achieved between Israel and Arab states, Senator Paul Sarbanes said Tuesday.

Mr. Sarbanes, a Democrat from Maryland, spoke at the Middle East peace process and U.S. foreign policy during B'nai B'rith's district five convention held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel.

Mr. Sarbanes, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, chairs the subcommittee on International Economic Policy, Trade, Oceans and Environment.

Commenting on ending the Arab Boycott of Israel, Mr. Sarbanes said, "I think it is very important that we achieve a breakthrough there."

He noted that the communiqué issued at the Group of Seven summit in Tokyo called for an end to the Arab boycott and that the U.S. Congress has worked to "bring pressure as best we can in order to help to achieve that."

Mr. Sarbanes said he is concerned that some Arab states "are not willing to take even some minimal steps to help establish a normal relationship" with Israel. "The boycott is a very clear example of that problem," he said.

"Some of the Arab countries have clearly not crossed the important threshold of being prepared to accept Israel as a neighbour and trying to live in peace with it," Mr. Sarbanes said.

As long as they don't reach that point, as long as their objective remains driving Israel out of the neighbourhood, there is no way you are going to achieve peace. That is the fundamental

divide that has to be crossed," the senator stressed.

Outlining the U.S. role in the Middle East peace process, Mr. Sarbanes said "the administration has made a strong commitment there to try to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace settlement." The United States must "be very careful in the (peace) process... to be truly a mediator and not be in a position of applying pressures on the parties."

Mr. Sarbanes said, "The negotiations have to be between the parties. And it is the parties themselves who have to work out the modalities of what may be possible and make the judgement of what can contribute to peace in the area." Asked to comment on whether Israel should trade land for peace, Mr. Sarbanes said "the judgement on that question is to be made by the Israelis. I don't see how anyone outside can substitute their judgement."

"They are a democratic country and they choose their leaders and... determine what their policy is to be. I think we ought to respect that policy making on their part," the senator said.

Asked why the United States does not recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, Mr. Sarbanes said, "I personally support the Israeli determination. But that has not been the policy of the U.S. government."

Many policymakers fear that if the status of Jerusalem is decided before a peace settlement is agreed upon the peace process "might be torpedoed," Mr. Sarbanes said. However, the senator added, "my own view is that it might be just as well to have the blow up now than have the blow up later."

Princess Anne in Moscow shooting drama

MOSCOW (R) — Police opened fire to deter a mystery driver who threatened to collide with a convoy escorting Britain's Princess Anne outside Moscow at the weekend, diplomatic sources and media said.

The reports said a police bodyguard travelling with the party fired a single shot to ward off the driver who had tried to cut across the high-speed convoy outside Moscow. The incident happened early last Saturday as the Princess Royal, Queen Elizabeth's only daughter, was being driven to Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport before starting a five-day visit to Mongolia. The newspaper Kommersant Daily said the driver, who was at the wheel of a saloon car, "attempted to ram the main car of the convoy which was carrying Princess Anne."

Princess Anne, 42, and her husband Tim Laurence were travelling in a Zil limousine in a five-car party. A British embassy official, spokesman Noel Jones, said the alleged incident began in any serious and threatened the process, her husband or any member of the party would be in any danger, he said.

He said the princess or her husband in any danger," Mr. Jones said.

They're changing the press office at Buckingham Palace

LONDON (R) — They are changing the press office as well as the guard at Buckingham Palace. Britain's royal family, plagued by a bad press over marital troubles, is getting new press officers drawn partly from the civil service to smarten up its image.

The new, line-up, announced Tuesday, introduced some fresh blood from outside the royal court after strong criticism of the way palace officials handled recent publicity stunts.

A Foreign Office spokeswoman said Penny Russell-Smith, becoming assistant press secretary to Queen Elizabeth, while her former boss, Prince Charles, will have two new information officers, one of them a woman. The princess's reputation has suffered because of his separation from his wife Princess Diana last year in a furore over an alleged romance with confidante Camilla Parker Bowles.

Diana ends visit to Zimbabwe

HARARE (R) — Britain's Princess Diana wound up her first visit to Zimbabwe by visiting a huge refugee camp in the east of the country which houses thousands of Mozambicans who fled a long-running civil war. The princess, who is scheduled to return home Tuesday night, arrived in Zimbabwe Saturday to tour projects run by charities linked to British welfare organisations. She was greeted by huge crowds on her tour across the southern African country, a former British colony. Zimbabwe has maintained close ties with London and the British royal family since gaining independence in 1980.

Start of 'Dangerous' Michael Jackson tour in doubt

HONG KONG (AFP) — Ticket sales to Michael Jackson's planned concert here in August have been suspended amid fears of the pop singer may delay the start of his "Dangerous" world tour.

Promoters said Wednesday sales of tickets here, routed at the first stop on his worldwide tour, were put on hold by local promoters of the 34-year-old American "pop" star, who is scheduled to start the tour here on Tuesday.

The tour, which was to have begun in Hong Kong, also includes Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan. Australia, India, Israel, Turkey and Latin America are also on the map before Jackson takes his show into North America. Sales of tickets for Jackson's concerts to have been staged here on Aug. 15 and Aug. 16 at a 30,000-seat racing track in suburban Shatin were to have begun Wednesday at outlets of TicketCity Music. But a spokeswoman for Tom Lee said "the sales of tickets to Jackson's concerts have been postponed until further notice."

A press report said between 50 per cent and 70 per cent of 20,000 top-price seats available for each night have already been sold. Organisers assured those who had already made bookings that they would have priority over the public for whatever new arrangements were made.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police thwart bid to found new Golan settlement

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli police foiled a bid by several dozen Jewish settlers to found a new settlement on the Golan Heights Wednesday, the authorities said. Settlers from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip drove five trucks loaded with prefabricated homes to a site in the north of the strategic plateau but police had been tipped off. Some 12,000 Israelis live in 33 settlements on the occupied Heights.

Violence flares up as arrests continue in Karachi

KARACHI (AFP) — Violence flared here Wednesday with arson attacks on government-owned enterprises as mass arrests of workers for an ethnic party in Pakistan's Sindh province topped 250 after three days, police sources said. Workers of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), an urban ethnic party with strongholds in Karachi and Hyderabad, were being charged by police with promoting violence. MQM leader Ishtiaq Azhar denied the charges, saying the MQM was being accused of the attacks to create electoral confusion and stop people from voting in July 22 by-elections. In the early hours Wednesday, the offices of the local electricity billing office was set on fire, police sources said. Arson attacks on a post office and a telephone and telegraph office were also reported by the fire brigade.

Two more die in Congo's political strife

BRAZZAVILLE (AFP) — A soldier killed two unarmed youths as political tension mounted between Congolese pro-government forces and the opposition in Brazzaville, reliable sources said Wednesday. The shooting incident occurred overnight as the youths, sons of a close associate of former Prime Minister Andre Milongo, drove in their father's Land Rover past an army camp in the southern Baongo district. As they passed the base, one of the youths jokingly called on his brother to open fire, and the soldier then shot at the vehicle, instantly killing one boy, while the other died later of his wounds in hospital, the sources said. Neither was armed, but both were wearing the balacavas used by opposition supporters. Baongo is an opposition stronghold and they had been told to help their father move home, joining hundreds of people fleeing their homes for fear of violence.

Rabbi suggests Manning tried suicide

TEL AVIV (AP) — A rabbi suggested Wednesday that Robert Manning may have tried to commit suicide by swallowing pills to avoid being extradited to the United States. Mr. Manning, 41, is wanted in connection with the 1980 murder of a California woman. His extradition was delayed at the last minute Tuesday when an airliner refused to fly him because he was ill. Israeli reports said Mr. Manning was still being treated at a jail infirmary Wednesday, a day after taking 20 sleeping pills to avoid being sent for trial in Los Angeles. It was unclear when he would be flown to the United States. Rabbi Eliezer Waldman, a former right-wing legislator from the Kiyat Arba settlement in the occupied West Bank, where Mr. Manning lived, said Mr. Manning had indicated to him he would prefer death to imprisonment in the United States.

Algerian leftist gases would-be stranglers

ALGIERS (R) — An Algerian politician escaped an attempt to strangle him by spraying his attackers with gas from an aerosol can, the official news agency APS reported on Wednesday. Ahmad Meliani, a leader of the anti-fundamentalist movement DEFI, was attacked Monday by three men who tried to strangle him with a rope in the entrance to his apartment building in the eastern town of Constantine, it said. DEFI is the Arabic acronym for the Movement for Progress, Modernity and Democracy, set up last year by leaders of the former Communist Party. It has demanded the banning of all Muslim fundamentalist parties and tougher action against Muslim activists blamed for a wave of violence that has swept Algeria in the last 18 months. Last September a communist activist was shot dead in Constantine in an attack blamed on Muslim militants.

Colin Powell gets Saudi medal

ALJAZIRA — Colin Powell received the medal, one of the kingdom's highest awards and named after its founder, from King Fahd on his arrival in the western coastal city of Jeddah late Tuesday for the third leg of a Gulf tour, the Saudi News Agency reported Wednesday. The General also met the Saudi defence minister, Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, to discuss the Gulf situation and plans to boost cooperation.

Somalia

(Continued from page 1)

play its 800 soldiers in the city with the 1,600 others in provinces north of Mogadishu unless agreement could be reached on a new approach to peacekeeping.

Italy, formerly the colonial power in Mogadishu, has sent the second largest contingent of troops to Somalia after the United States.

Rome has criticised the U.N. role in a raid in which the International Committee of the Red Cross said 54 people were killed and 174 wounded.

More than 4,000 American troops are in Somalia, including the elite Quick Reaction Force, which is backed by air power.

The Somali leaflets closed with a strident call "to all Muslim countries in the world to kill Americans in their countries."

The leaflets — which were widely distributed in the southern sector of the city controlled by fugitive warlord Mohammad Far-

Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

rah Aidede — came two days after American helicopters bombed an alleged command centre of gunmen loyal to Gen. Aidede, according to the Red Cross. 54 Somalis were killed in the raid.

Four foreign journalists were murdered by enraged mobs near the scene and two others were injured by Somalis wielding rocks, knives and guns. Some nations have condemned the attack and urged the 29-nation U.N. force to return to its humanitarian mission.

Aid officials — confined to their compounds since the bombardment Monday — say local employees of humanitarian agencies have reported rumours of reprisal attacks.

They said weapons were being moved clandestinely through some southern areas of the city and said the potential for attacks against foreigners remained.

Most foreign aid workers spent a second straight day in their compounds.

Journalist/politician in hot waters with JPA over Israel TV show

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Another Jordanian journalist has run afoul of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) with an appearance in an Israel Television talk show.

The executive council of the JPA has recommended that Ghazi Sadi, a member of the association, be sent before a disciplinary panel for what it considers as a violation of the code of conduct of Arab journalists.

"Contacts with Israel, or any Israeli institution, are prohibited by the Federation of Arab Journalists, and the JPA council's recommendation that Mr. Sadi appear before the disciplinary committee falls in line with this provision," JPA secretary Ghazwan Al Qudat said Wednesday.

"It is up to the disciplinary committee to decide whether Mr. Sadi violated the ban," added Mr. Qudat.

Mr. Sadi, 57, said he was not officially informed of the JPA decision but that he was ready

to defend himself if asked to do so.

"I participated in the Israel Television show in my capacity as a Palestinian activist and not as a journalist," said Mr. Sadi, an independent member of the Palestine National Council (PNC).

But, Mr. Qudat said, the JPA stand was that "as long as Mr. Sadi is a member of the association his actions would be considered as that of a Jordanian journalist regardless of his or her political background."

Mr. Sadi countered: "The JPA appears to be living in the past. It does not seem to acknowledge that we, the Arabs, are holding direct peace negotiations and it is in our interest to have Israeli people hear our views and perceptions of peace."

Mr. Sadi's appearance on Israel Television's Hebrew programme "Bepolitika" through a satellite hook-up came three weeks ago. The issue discussed was the Middle East peace process and fol-



Ghazi Sadi

lowed an Israeli claim denied by Jordan that the Jewish state and the Kingdom had worked out a "peace agreement."

"I emphasised that Jordan would never sign a peace accord with Israel without a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem," Mr. Sadi.

Another point Mr. Sadi, who speaks fluent Hebrew, tried to make during the show was that the Israeli people should understand and

appreciate the fact that Arabs genuinely want peace and that Israel should reciprocate with sincerity.

"Israeli public opinion is very important and is crucial to the peace process," Mr. Sadi told the Jordan Times. "It was an opportunity to address the Israeli people and let them know of the Arab viewpoint and arguments through their own media in their own language."

"Why does Jordan Television have a Hebrew-language news programme?" he asked. "Isn't the idea behind it to convey the Arab viewpoint to the Israeli people?"

Mr. Sadi, considered an expert on Israeli affairs and political currents, is the second Jordanian journalist to cross swords with the JPA with an appearance on Israel Television.

Sultan Hattab, a columnist in the Al Ra'i newspaper and former editor of Sawt Al Shaab, was expelled from the JPA shortly after he gave an interview to Israel Television

on the fringes of the Middle East peace conference held in Madrid in October 1991.

Mr. Hattab took the JPA to court. The court ruled that Mr. Hattab's expulsion from the association was null and void since the journalist was not given a chance to be heard before a JPA disciplinary committee. It left the door open for the JPA to go through the legal process of expulsion of members through the disciplinary committee.

Another prominent columnist who had also appeared on Israel Television escaped JPA wrath by publishing an apology in his column.

Mr. Sadi was an Israeli Arab from the village of Akaa near the border with Lebanon. The Israelis expelled him in 1977 and he came to Jordan and renounced his Israeli passport.

The veteran journalist with more than 30 years of experience set up the Dar Al Jalil research centre in 1978. The centre offers facilities for studies on Palestinian affairs and Hebrew-language courses.